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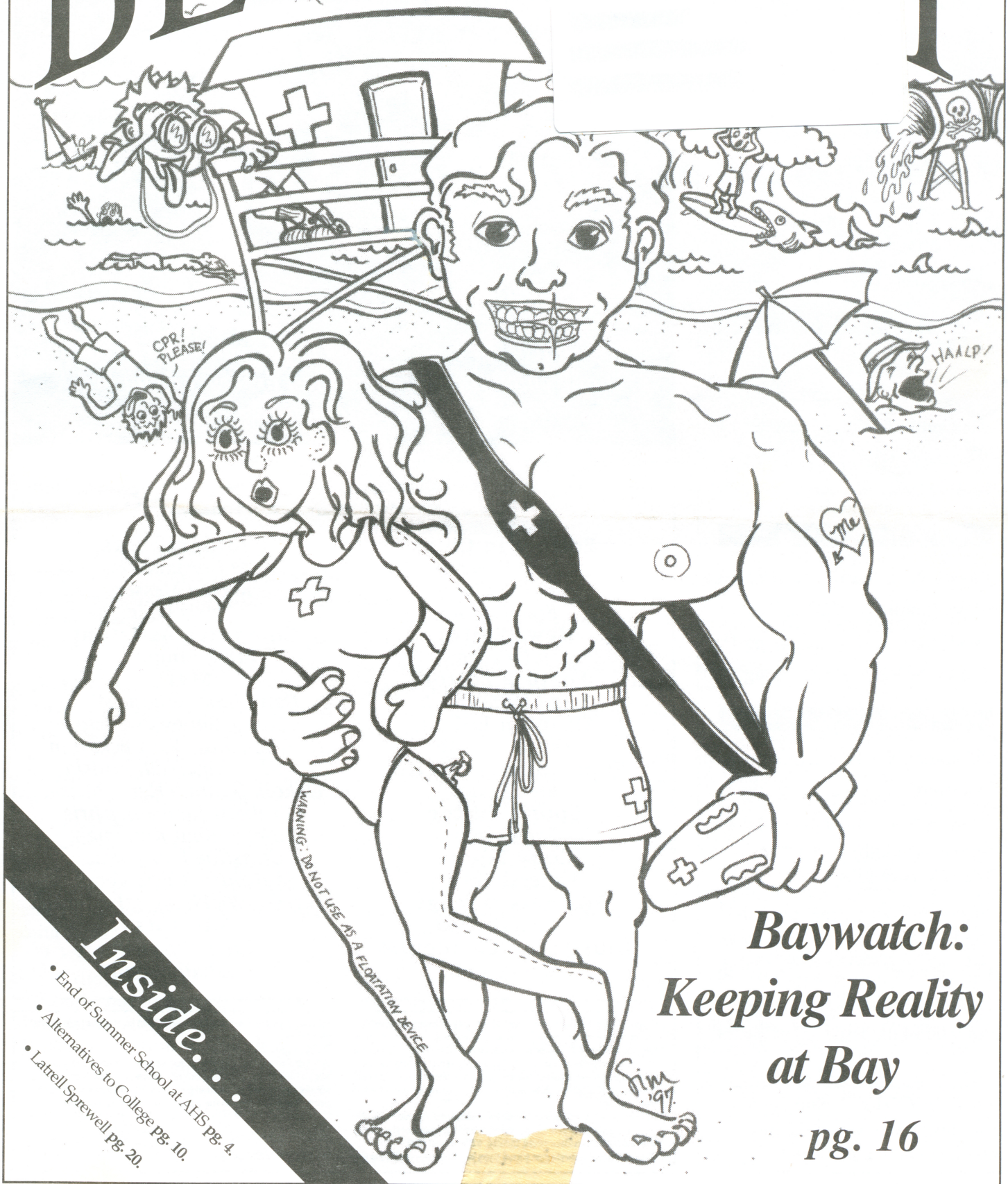

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ON THE COVER: Sim Peyron gives his impression of the infamous melodrama *Baywatch*.

Photo of the Issue

English teacher Erik Seebass participates in a Break-a-Thon, which is a charity contest to see who can break the most boards.

Blueprint '97-'98

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A CALANES BLUEPRINT
NEWS

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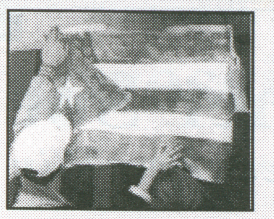

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ENGLISH CLASSES

English Teachers Push for Class Diversity

Hannah Hens-Piazza
Staff Writer

A new English program for juniors and seniors, proposed by the Acalanes English Department chairs, would allow students more choices regarding their curriculum, and may go into effect during the 1998-1999 school year, according to Acalanes English teachers.

The new program would allow juniors and seniors to take one semester of the traditional English 3 or 4, which focuses on American literature and British literature. The other semester will be an English elective of the student's choice. The four electives for students to choose from will be Shakespeare, American Dream, Visions of the Future, and Literature of the Arts. The elective classes will be mixed juniors and seniors.

The reason for the possible change is the English teachers' desire to allow students to "pursue their own interests," said English Department Head Marshall Pfeiffer. He hopes this interest will create more of a commitment to the class, and he hopes that because the classes are only a semester long, they can be more intense, concentrating on one specific area of literature.

There was an elective system of English at Acalanes fifteen or twenty years ago, but enrollment declined. The program was taken out of the curriculum, and the current English 3 and 4 were installed.

English teacher Ken Derr said that another reason for the change is a desire to make high school English more of a "college-style course." Derr also pointed out that the program will allow students to focus more closely. Many students are interested by the prospect of being able to spend more intense amounts of time on a topic of their choice.

Most sophomores and juniors would prefer the new plan, according to survey results on the issue, and many believe that the "variety" will allow them to enjoy English more than they do now. Junior Christine Han said, "I think it's good that [the faculty] is finally giving us options, instead of trying to cram all different kinds of English into one class."

Others hope that with the program, they will be able to control the types of books they read. Sophomore Emily Murray said, "I think that [the new elective program] would be a really good thing to have, because kids would enjoy English more since they would get to choose what type of things they'd be studying."

Sophomore Magnus DuBorg felt that the program would "allow students to broaden their learning horizons" by adding variety and choice to the normal English curriculum. Sophomore Kathryn Gin agreed, saying that she liked the idea of being able to choose what she wants to study.

Sophomore and junior English teacher Julie Haire also supports the possible program, and said students "will be able to concentrate more on certain themes...If [teachers] know [the material] really well, then we'll be able to teach it really well."

NEWSBRIEF

Fuses Roasting on an AHS Fire

By Jennie Saulsbury
Staff Writer

Thanksgiving vacation ended with a bang and a fizzle this year as a small fire in the electric wiring caused a loss of power for certain parts of the school.

The fire, which was more smoke than actual flames, occurred during the weekend before school resumed on Dec. 1 and was caused by a "number of things" said assistant principal Paul Mack.

"The wiring is very old. It has been here since the school was built and a lot keeps getting added on to it. It is very heavy and probably fell down. There was a steam leak that occurred around the same time the wiring fell on the electrical box. These factors could have caused the problem," said Mack.

According to Mack, the lack of combustible material in the concrete tunnel caused the fire to fizzle out, though some wiring was damaged. The damaged wiring caused a loss of power around the one-hundreds hall, a problem for some of the classes.

Paul Bernard, who teaches keyboarding, had no lights or heat for almost two days. "The computers would not function. The students would come to class, but mainly they would study for other classes with what light we had," he said.

One of the larger problems for Bernard and other classes was the lack of heat during one of the first cold spells of the year. "We were all very uncomfortable as a result of no heat," said Bernard.

The problem of the wiring is still being checked by maintenance and, until it can be fixed, the school is using three emergency power generators. "They cost us a little more money to run, but we have to keep the school running until the problem is fixed," said Mack. It is not yet known how long it will take to get the power running again.

The rest of the school's wiring will probably be checked out to avoid further problems, said Mack.

NEWS FOCUS

Summer Social Studies is History

History Teachers Win Battle to End Summer School Option

By Sara Eckholm
Staff Writer

Some 400 Acalanes District students and their parents are going to be in for a shock when they find out that, due to a new interpretation of a 1980 law, they will no longer be able to take World History, U.S History or Government/Economics over the summer at any public high school.

Under new regulations, no public schools will be able to offer for a fee any classes that are a necessary part of graduation requirements. Public schools could choose to offer the classes free of charge, but the Acalanes District will not have this option for any social studies class. Remedial core classes will still be offered for those students who need to retake a class. The 1980 California Teachers Association vs. Board of Education case (109 Cal.App.3d738) was clarified to determine that under education code section 52612, the district cannot charge a summer school fee to offer core subject courses. Last summer, the Acalanes School District offered 15 sections of World History, U.S. History and Government/Economics.

The regulation will not prevent students from taking the classes in other places. Diablo Valley Community College offered seven sections of History 120, a U.S. History course last summer. In order to complete the Acalanes District graduation requirement, students must take both U.S. History 120 and 121 at DVC.

Blueprint Illustration/Sim Peyron

Grant Cook, Director of Marketing at DVC, said that he hadn't been aware of the new regulations, but that in response, the college will anticipate more high school students next summer and plan accordingly. Although high school students pay only $1.00 to take the 6-8 week course, Cook said that if necessary, they would increase the number of sections offered to "better serve the community."

Senior Erin Hafey took a U.S. History class the summer after her sophomore year. She liked taking only one class at a time, because she was able to really focus on that class. The first day of application at DVC is March 16.

Another option for students will be to take the courses at a private school. De La Salle and Carondelet combine their summer school courses at De La Salle High School in Concord. De La Salle principal, Brother Robert said that when they begin to plan their summer school offerings in February, they will definitely take this information into account. Brother Robert did not know what the schedule is going to be, but De La Salle's students will be the first accepted. Last year there were around 250 students enrolled in World and U.S. History, but most of the students were from either De La Salle or Carondelet.

Still another alternative for students, said Assistant Superintendent Joanne Haukland, is the North Bay Orinda School. It will offer both semesters of U.S. History for $500 each ($900 for both). Sign-ups start on December 3,1997. The Acalanes District U.S. History and Gov't/Econ. courses cost $260 each.

U.S. History was the only class besides math required for graduation that was still offered in summer school last year. In fact, Haukland said, "We [Acalanes School District]

NEWS FOCUS

were one of the last districts still offering it."

The fact that so many students take the opportunity to get one of their main classes out of the way doesn't sit well with Acalanes Social Studies Co-chair Janene Scovel. She believes that summer school classes are "concentrated, but it's not the same as learning it when you have time to digest and reflect on all that's happening in history." While some students may take the class to loosen up their schedules for more elective opportunities, Dr. Scovel feels that they are doing it at the expense of a very important core class.

According to Larry Freeman, Social Studies co-chair and U.S. History teacher, surveys conducted by principal Schmidt as well as the history department showed that avoiding academic hardship was the most common reason students took the history class over the summer. Junior Graham Taylor said that he "probably didn't learn as much in a seven week course as he would have in a year-long course." Freeman said, "If you have a system that lets kids take the easy way out, you're consciously robbing them of the better academic experience."

Many argue that a six, seven, or eight-week course just can't offer the same level of rigorous academic learning that a year long course can. This is especially true in history where tying in current events is a main focus in the curriculum, said Scovel.

Government/Economics teacher, Carla Garrett, who has taught seven years of summer school, said that there was a variety of students who took her classes for many different reasons. She has a curriculum that she has specifically designed over the years for the summer school course, and feels that she is able to provide her students with an education equivalent to that a year long course would provide.

This curriculum may be the reason why about 150 Acalanes students chose to take a history class over the summer last year. While the four-hour-a-day class was theoretically as challenging as a normal class, some students felt that they didn't get the same knowledge out of their summer course as they would have if they had taken it during the school year. Counselor Pat Johnson said, "I would say the feedback I get from my students varies a great deal depending on what teacher they had."

Dr. Scovel said that she felt that such a great number of students took the summer school course because "counselors give the rumor that junior year is the hardest," and that students should "get the course out of the way." Johnson said that if students wants to find another way to work an elective into their schedule the following year, she will go over all of the students' options before deciding what to do. In some cases, being able to concentrate solely on a history class for the summer is the right solution. Johnson added that "...we're still going to try to give students information about their options if they have a problem in terms of fitting things in their schedules."

Other students take classes in order to open up their schedules for the following year. Senior Kira Smith took U.S. history over the summer of her sophomore year. "It loosened up my schedule so that I could take two periods of chorus," she said. Freeman said that this was the second most common reason that kids said they took summer school courses.

Johnson offered the suggestion that students could take an elective class over the summer through an outside program to free up room. Last year however, the district offered no elective courses, because these courses have typically had very little enrollment, said assistant principal, Tom Eggertsen. Sophomore Katie Walsh said that she and most of her friends are planning to take U.S. History over the coming summer. She said that she was "definitely planning to take it to get it out of the way."

Depending on how many students still choose to take summer school history courses, Acalanes may have to hire another history teacher, said Johnson. The social studies department won't be the only department affected, however elective courses may lose enrollment because students will no longer have space in their schedules.

Chorus teacher Karen Lindford isn't sure how her program will be affected. She said that her main goal is to "keep the quality of music as high as I can,"

Technical Education department head Grant Cusick said, "It's going to negatively affect all of the elective program." He thought that with more students taking social studies courses during the regular year, the number of students who would be able to take the elective classes would decrease. He feels that it will allow fewer students to take advantage of Acalanes' excellent programs.

Freeman didn't think that the elective program will shrink significantly simply because there are more students at Acalanes than there have been in past years.

LEARNING GAPS

A student who takes all of his/her three years of required history classes at Summer School will only be exposed to four months of Social Studies over a 40 month period according to a graphical analysis by senior Eduardo Galeano. The exposure would also be separated by "learning gaps" 11 to 13 months in length.

Conversly, the same student would be exposed to 27 months of English instruction over the same 40 month period with "learning gap" of less than 2.5 months because English is not offered in summer school.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

Cultural Jamboree

Kent Klinzman
Staff Writer

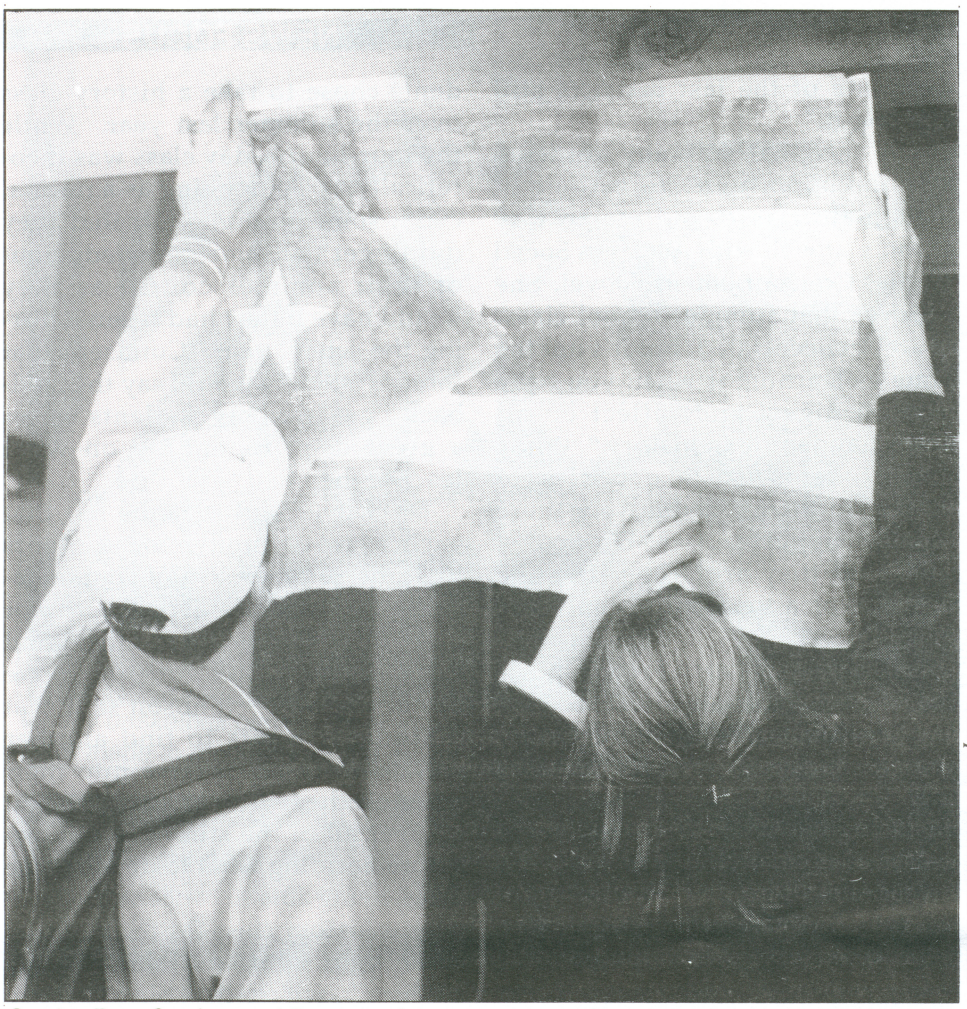
Acalanes leadership class put on their annual International Day, but this year they decided to substitute the educational value of the event for more enjoyable activities.

"This is the first time that it has been sponsored by the Leadership class, so it was a new thing for us," said Leadership teacher, Ron Keillor. This International Day was normally held during the LASF sponsored International Week in which guest speakers came to Acalanes and the clubs sponsored food stands. The LASF International Week was a more of a educational event unlike the one put on by leadership. "This was kind of a fun activity," commented Keillor. The Leadership class decided to make International Day a fun activity that is unconnected to the LASF week for clubs and that the student body could be involved in.

The event was not a fund raiser for the Leadership class; it was more to help the clubs out," said Keillor. The clubs were involved so that they could introduce people to the foods of other cultures, and also to get money for their treasuries for various items, including field trips and other expenses.

"The food was great, although it was a little on the expensive side, it was a nice change," said senior Ed Chandler. An average meal at International day cost about $3.75, and although it was a little more expensive than the normal Cafeteria Combo meal, it was well worth it for the variety of food and cultures that it brought to the lunch.

The Leadership class is uncertain where they will be heading with this event in the future but they are considering many options. One option is a leadership sponsored International Week that brings in money for the clubs and can also bring in the same speakers that LASF does during it's International Week. This way, not only could money be made for the clubs and the school, it could also be a more educational event.



Blueprint Photo/Rachel Messer

Senior Ben Conley and Danielle Silvani secure a flag to the gutter in the Quad for AHS clubs' International Day.

DRAMA FIRE

Drama Room Fire Not an Act

By Vanessa Totten
Copy Editor

A small electrical fire extinguished power to the computer lab and drama room, and closed the Glass Hall during lunch on Tuesday, December 16.

The fire was started while private and District electricians were attempting to switch back to regular power from generators that have been active since Thanksgiving Break.

District Electrician Vince Flores, who put out the fire said "I've done it before...I went to the administration's office and just kicked in the glass door and got the fire extingusher and ran back into the room.

Flores said that the fire was caused by "powering the wrong" wire. Head Custodian Everett Woolfolk arrived at 11:25, a few minutes after the fire was extinguished. "It smelt like burnt rubber, there was still some smoke in the air...it was hard to breathe," he said.

No students were in the Drama room at the time.

Computer teacher Paul Bernard said Tuesday was a wasted day beacuse there was no power for the comupters, and "particularly since we don't have any light either." He gave his students a study hall. The problems in the computer lab could have been worse. According to Flores "Potentially (the fire) could have been (in the computer lab), but we caught (the shortage) in time and we shut (the power) down."

LATRELL SPREWELL

Spree Not Hitting Threes with AHS

By Julie Zorn
News Editor

"You just lost the game for us," "Get your acts together," "What the hell were you doing?" —These are just some of the comments that athletes are accustomed to hearing from their coaches.

Warrior Latrell Sprewell's attack on his coach P.J. Carlisimo raised the issue among coaches and athletes of whether using harsh language towards athletes should be considered "verbal abuse".

The majority of athletes have had a coach at some point in their career who yells at the team. Mike McAlister, the varsity girls' water polo coach, commented that "I do that to my team and I've had it done to me as well."

In today's society, is that form of coaching verbal abuse? "It's just a game," commented senior Jeremy Owyoung.

Some feel that in order not to consider harsh language verbal abuse, it would depend on how it is applied. "You have to criticize the action and not the person," said boys' water polo coach, Brian Monty.

According to biology teacher and former football coach, Gordon Finn, his coach yelled at him "to make me improve, to point out that I was making an error. That's what a coach is supposed to do... to train you to improve. Sometimes that training involves loud language and criticism."

This sort of training "always had an effect," said history teacher and former coach Diane Schumacher. Whether the effect was beneficial to the team depends on the athlete, she said.

While all the students in a *Blueprint* poll agreed that this verbal technique had the intended effect, there are still athletes who do not respond well to it. "You really need to know your players to get the most out of them," said former Warriors spokesperson Andee Henrotin, "as soon as maximum performance is in jeopardy, you've gone too far."

Some teachers use these same techniques in the classroom. "Good coaches are there because they are good teachers. Sometimes yelling will get a groups attention," said Finn.

Henrotin disagrees with this outlook and sees the student-teacher relationship as a completely different situation than the athlete-coach relationship. "Coaches are closer to their players than teachers are to their students and that allows more things to be said."

McAlister agrees and distinguishes between the classroom environment and the sporting atmosphere. "What I do in the classroom is academic discipline. It's about physical and emotional discipline out in the pool."

Carlisimo attempted to provide discipline to his athletes, in particular, Sprewell, through this verbal technique. As a result, Sprewell attacked and assaulted Carlisimo, and was suspended from participating in basketball for one year without pay. Sprewell has claimed that Carlisimo "verbally abused" him, which caused his actions.

Despite Sprewell's claims, many agree that there is "never any justification for physical violence," said Paige Baca, the diving coach at Acalanes.

Manny Myers, track and field coach, agrees, and adds that Sprewell "was hired knowing the kind of coach that (Carlisimo) was."

Henrotin feels that using "harsh language is OK, but it's not justified in the extreme (Carlisimo) went to...he pushed too far." He also adds that "it's verbal abuse, but Sprewell is in a position to be verbally abused. It is part of teaching and motivation."

Not everyone feels that Carlisimo's language was verbal abuse. Many coaches "have been incredibly negative in their verbal expressions...that is a common style used among coaches," said McAlister.

NEWSBRIEF

The Blue Ribbon Blues

By Liz Johnson
Staff Writer

Acalanes was nominated this year to apply to be a Blue Ribbon School, and although nominated before, Acalanes has never won this prestigious award.

A school is evaluated "in the areas of vision and purpose. . . and is in tune with the latest theories and practices. The school has a state of the art concept in teaching and learning practices, on the campus, in support groups, in community involvement, and in student involvement outside of the classroom. Obviously, in most areas I think we do very well," said Acalanes Principal Keith Schmidt.

Schmidt has not received any feedback as to why Acalanes did not attain this prestigious award in previous years. He feels that Acalanes' lack of "constant, thorough, systematic assessment of program," which the federal government favors, damaged Acalanes' standing in the contest. Schmidt holds state policy responsible for our "after the fact" evaluation. However, other schools in California have won this prestigious award, regardless of this statewide handicap of poor evaluation techniques.

JSA

JSA Promises Diversity for Future Leaders

By Jennie Saulsbury
Staff Writer

An ex-prostitute, a member of the North Valley Baptist Ministry, and the California Secretary of State Bill Jones all walk into a room... no, it's not the beginning of a bad joke, it's Junior State of America's Fall convention, the first convention of the year for Speech and Debate, an Acalanes open forum club.

The convention, which was held Nov. 21 through the 22 in the Santa Clara Marriott and involved debates, expert panels, and thought talks for the close to two thousand students who attended, is the first of four Junior State of America trips the Speech and Debate group hopes to take this year according to co-president Ali Faard. The other conferences planned include a two day trip to Sacramento in February and a three day trip in March.

"You learn a lot about the government and current issues facing people. They don't really try to hide the facts from us just because we're high school kids," said Faard.

Lindsey Lieberman, a junior and one of fourteen Acalanes students who attended also enjoyed the topics discussed. "Some of the debates, especially the ones on religion, really get intense. There are people yelling at each other and fighting. You see how much it really means to them," she said.

Junior Gabrielle Moore felt some of the topics debated were a little old, but didn't think that ruined the experience. "They had debates on legalization of prostitution or marijuana and abortion debates... things that have been done a million times, but people knew what they were talking about and a lot of times they would bring in experts," she said.

One of the experts, an ex-prostitute who was a member of the group PROMISE, a group aimed at getting prostitutes off the streets, spoke at an expert panel for the legalization of prostitution. "She mainly just told us about her own experiences but that makes it seem more real. It makes it seem like more than just a debate if you know it's somebody's life," said Moore.

As well as teaching students about current issues, the debates and thought talks, which spanned over an entire weekend, helped some learn how to conquer their stage fright. "It really helps you get up and speak your mind when you see other kids your age doing it. Most of the time kids are pretty respectful and, after awhile, you don't really mind the ones that aren't because there's usually only a few of them," said junior Jeff Price, who is also a member of the JSA senate, part of the student run government that puts together the conventions.

As well as debates, the conventions also touch on how the American government works by scaling it down to one that the kids can run. "It's really kind of a mini democracy. At the end of the year people have campaigns and you get to elect the students who will run it the following year and then they have to try to live up to their campaign promises," said Price. "Sometimes you even have a few campaign scandals."

As well as small scale government, kids get a taste of the real thing. The key note speaker at the opening session of the fall convention was Secretary of State Bill Jones. "He was actually pretty boring," said Moore. "Last year they had Leslie Griffith from Channel Two News, and the longest living HIV patient. They were really interesting. I don't even remember what Bill Jones said."

According to Faard, however, the fall convention was focused more on issues than on government. "In the winter we go to a convention in Sacramento. You learn a lot more about the government at that one," he said.

As well as a learning experience, some members say the main reason they go is for fun. "You get to stay in a hotel with over a thousand kids your age. Chances are, you make one or two new friends," said senior Scott O'Neil.

PHOTOBRIEF

Blueprint Photo/Rachel Messer

A car accident occurred on Tuesday, November 18 at the intersection of Pleasant Hill Road and the Acalanes back parking lot.

Sue Wilson, employed in the Acalanes cafeteria, attempted to turn left onto Pleasant Hill Road from the back parking lot when she collided with a car heading northbound.

No one was injured in the crash, but Wilson's car was totaled and the other car suffered a good amount of damage.

"It's a bad intersection," said Wilson.

-By Jake Zarah

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FEATURE

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CHINESE SCHOOL

Asian Students Get in Touch with Culture

By Christine Lin
Staff Writer

Blueprint Photo/Rachel Messer

Contra Costa Chinese School Students practice rhythmic ribbon dancing during an early Saturday morning class.

While politician Ron Unz and others want to terminate bilingual education statewide, some students are spending their Saturday mornings sitting in a classroom saying things which sound something like the babblings of politicians, "Wa she wan jong gwo," and "shie jong gwo tz."

Students of all ages attend the Contra Costa Chinese School (CCCS) to learn to read and write Chinese. Parents of these students are willing to spend extra money, while their children spend extra time learning about their background and heritage. Students "should know their roots, their native language, and I don't want them to lose that," said Mei Rung Huang, a teacher at CCCS and a mother of a student.

Students attend for a variety of reasons. Michelle Tsai, a junior at Northgate High School goes "because my mom makes me." However, Tsai understands that her parents force her to attend "so that I know about my background and am able to communicate with my other relatives."

On the other hand, Las Lomas freshmen Colleen Chung attends "because it is interesting and people look at us and think, 'You are Chinese and so you should be able to speak Chinese.' Wouldn't it be dumb if you are Chinese and you couldn't (speak Chinese)?"

Over 660 local students are enrolled in CCCS and about 50 are enrolled into the High School Accreditation Program. "I think that Chinese is more relevant than most other languages, other than English. As far as I know, one in every five people speak Chinese in this world," said Huang.

Is Acalanes' Foreign language program out of step with times? "It is not as reflective as it could be of changing times," said Acalanes Principal Keith Schmidt. Languages such as French and German may not help in the future as much as Chinese, or even Japanese, said Schmidt.

There has been talk in the district about teaching languages other than the three that Acalanes currently offers. However, there are many things involved that the district has to think about before adding Chinese, or any other language, to the curriculum said Schmidt. Then there is the question of which dialect would be taught, and who would be qualified to teach it. Most importantly, would there be enough people interested in Chinese and willing to go through the cycle of Chinese 1,2,3,4, and 5?

The credits received through the High School Accreditation Program can be treated as foreign language credits or elective credits. However, it is advised by the head of the accreditation program that students use the credits as elective credits for college applications. Some colleges may not accept these "Chinese Credits" as foreign language credits. "All the schools that are Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accredited accept each others' course work at face value," said Schmidt. Because CCCS is not accredited by WASC, a college might ask, "Are their A's equal to the WASC accredited A's? Are they better than the high school A's?"

The program requires 80 hours per semester for a student to receive 5 credits. This includes 16 weeks of two hours in regular classes, one hour in qualified EP classes, which are like electives and include brush writing and Chinese knotting, and one hour in the Cultural Awareness class. The class also requires two reports per semester in order to receive

cont'd on page 11

COLLEGE

Some Grads Say 'Enough'

By Julie Zorn
News Editor

Although over 90 percent of the Acalanes student body continues on to college, there are several options open to students who are not college bound, ranging from entering the Armed Forces, to starting out in the professional world, to travelling.

Erin Lynn graduated from Acalanes with the class of 1997, but she decided to defer her enrollment to the University of Colorado in Bolder. "I had to write (admissions at Colorado) a letter explaining why, and my main reason was because I had to have surgery on my left shoulder from a swimming injury," said Lynn.

During her year off, Lynn has traveled all over the United States and Europe. She went to Memphis to see her godmother, who had just finished her chemotherapy, she visited Colorado for a six weeks and previewed her future college campus in Boulder for a week.

Currently, Lynn is babysitting five days a week, but she has many events planned for the rest of the year. After her surgery in January, she will take a cooking class, volunteer at a children's hospital, travel to Greece, and take courses at Acalanes Adult Center and Lafayette Community Center.

Lynn does not see her deferment as being harmful to her college career. "I think I'm at an advantage because I know where I want to live, and I met a lot of people," said Lynn.

Senior Kent Klinzman is one of those daring souls of the 1998 class who has decided not to go to college right after high school. Klinzman also sees himself at an advantage. "I am going to have five and a half years experience in my job field," which is as an advanced electronics and computers engineer.

Ever since the eighth grade, he says

cont'd on page 10

STRESS GROUPS

Relieving Anxiety with Words

By Rand Dadasovich
Feature Editor

Sharing your soul in front of a group of peers is not something most people at Acalanes would find appealing. However, for a select group of students, this is the opportunity they are given at weekly stress group meetings. These forums, which are conducted by JFK graduate psychology interns, give students the opportunity to discuss topics not usually addressed in the regular classroom.

Stress groups are "a place to come and talk where it is confidential. They can talk about the stresses, the problems, or concerns that they have in a place where it is not really directly related to the school," said JFK intern Widd Medford.

The popularity of the class, which is sponsored by the Acalanes Parents' Club, has risen dramatically since its creation three years ago. In its first year, there were only two sessions of the stress group per week, while last year there were five. This year, there are six stress groups that meet either Monday or Thursday.

Medford cited that there were over 100 applicants for this year's sessions, and only sixty spots available. The group was narrowed by selecting students on a first come first serve basis and personal interviews.

The dramatic increase in interested students may be attributed to the climate of intense academic pressure at Acalanes according to Head Counsellor Bob Gangi. "The results of being under academic pressure are one of the main causes of stress among students."

This is junior Leigh Meredith's second year in stress group, and her experience has taught her the value of the groups. "I think stress groups give you a chance to be in an environment where you don't have to worry about school pressure or assignments. It's good to get things off your back because they can build up so quickly. It's nice to find an outlet for these problems," said Meredith.

Gangi calls the term "stress groups" an umbrella term, which encompasses a wide range of topics. The purpose of "groups is usually to meet the needs of the people who become involved in them," he said.

Shortreed said that the stress groups provide an opportunity for students to discuss anything on their minds, ranging from boyfriend/girlfriend conflicts, family problems, and even to performance pressure.

"The pressure to perform here is very strong. College is not really an option—everyone goes to college," said Medford.

A symptom of the pressure is most evident in the number of this year's applicants. "What we've found is that as soon as we walk on campus, people approach us about being in the stress group," said Medford.

However, whether the popularity of stress groups can be attributed to actual stress is questionable. While students like Meredith attend stress groups as a way to relieve the pressure of school, some have alterior motives. "Usually people have been pretty honest about saying that (getting out of class) is a benefit. In the interviews they would say, 'Well, it's fun to miss class sometimes,'" said JFK intern Erica Shortreed. She was quick to point out, however, that the students selected for participation believed there was more to gain than skipping class.

One of the main components of the group is the strict level of confidentiality. "The only way you can have a really safe and cohesive group is when people really agree to keep what is said (within the group) and to allow people to talk about things that are important to them," said Shortreed.

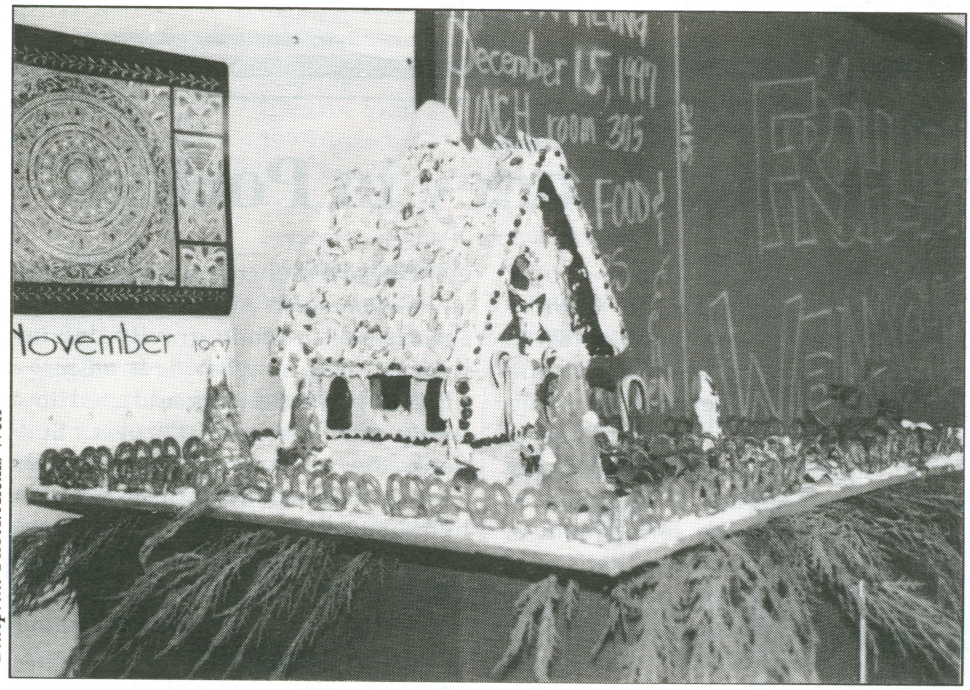
In fact, the format of the sessions is not set in stone, and students are free to bring up any topic they choose. "I think (the small groups) provide a really supportive atmosphere to talk about (problems) and to hear other people's experiences that are similar, or even find ways to problem solve a particular issue," said Shortreed.

The weekly meeting of the stress forums occur in a cycle. For example, the Monday groups miss first period one week, second period the next, and third period the third week before the rotation repeats. "By having the classes in a cycle, students don't miss the same class repeatedly and avoid falling behind," said Shortreed.

Despite the rotation, missing a hard class once every three weeks can impact on one's grade. But if making up class work becomes a problem, there is always the opportunity to vent these concerns during stress group.

HOLIDAY SPECIAL

Acalanes Shares the Holiday Spirit



Blueprint Photo/Alexis Weir

The German Club raised $300 for the Contra Costa Food Coalition by selling gingerbread cookies and raffle tickets for the gingerbread house shown above.

CHINESE SCHOOL (cont'd)

cont'd from page 9

credits. Every grade level takes two midterms and two finals a year, and has its own textbook and workbook. Students have weekly homework and occasional quizzes and tests. The rules and expectations are the same as most regular schools.

However, with all the extra homework and reports, taking the class can bring on extra stress. "Sometimes it is really hard to schedule around Chinese school. It is also really hard to finish all the homework for both schools," said sophomore Regine Lee.

Tsai said it is also "hard to go to school on a Saturday morning after you have gone to school for five days. It is stressful because you have other stuff to do, and now you have to add more homework to it."

COLLEGE (cont'd)

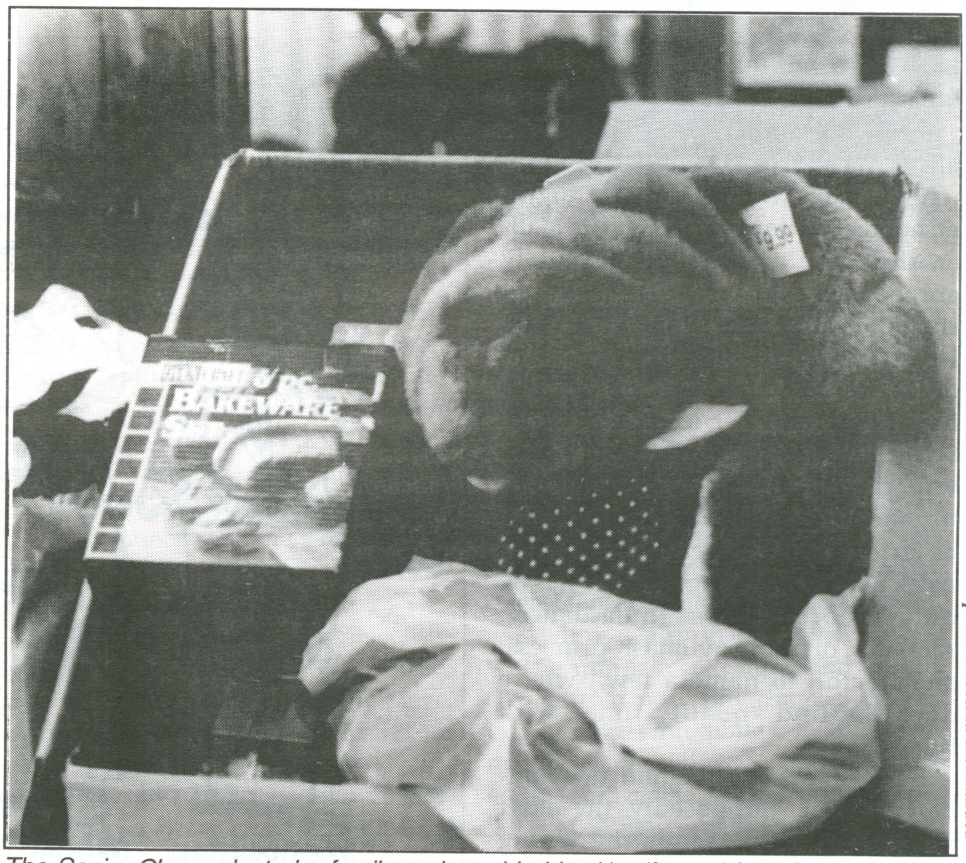
cont'd from page 10

he was eager to go on to some division of the armed forces. "I was getting tired of just the whole school atmosphere, so I wanted to do some traveling...And the navy does a lot of traveling," said Klinzman.

Klinzman hopes to attend college during his service in the navy as an engineer and after his six year term.

Students who choose these paths after high school usually attend college afterwards. Typically, they either want more time to decide where they want to go to college, or have not decided what they want to pursue as a career.

Almost all students do continue on to college at some point, whether it is after high school or years later. Head Counselor Bob Gangi speculates that is because "people in this community and the Acalanes District are highly professional, educated, and the expectation is that students will continue on to college."



Blueprint Photo/Ia Hernandez

The Senior Class adopted a family and provided it with gifts and food for the holidays season. The box ,shown above ,is ready to be packaged and sent to the family.

A CALANES BLUEPRINT
OPINION

INSIDE . . . . . .

Sim Peyron's Editorial Cartoons pg. 15

OPINION

Barbie: Meat on Bones, Money in Pockets

By Anne Kim
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Her hair is synthetic. Her body is plastic. Her legs are detachable. Her feet are permanently slanted.

And she's getting the biggest makeover of her life.

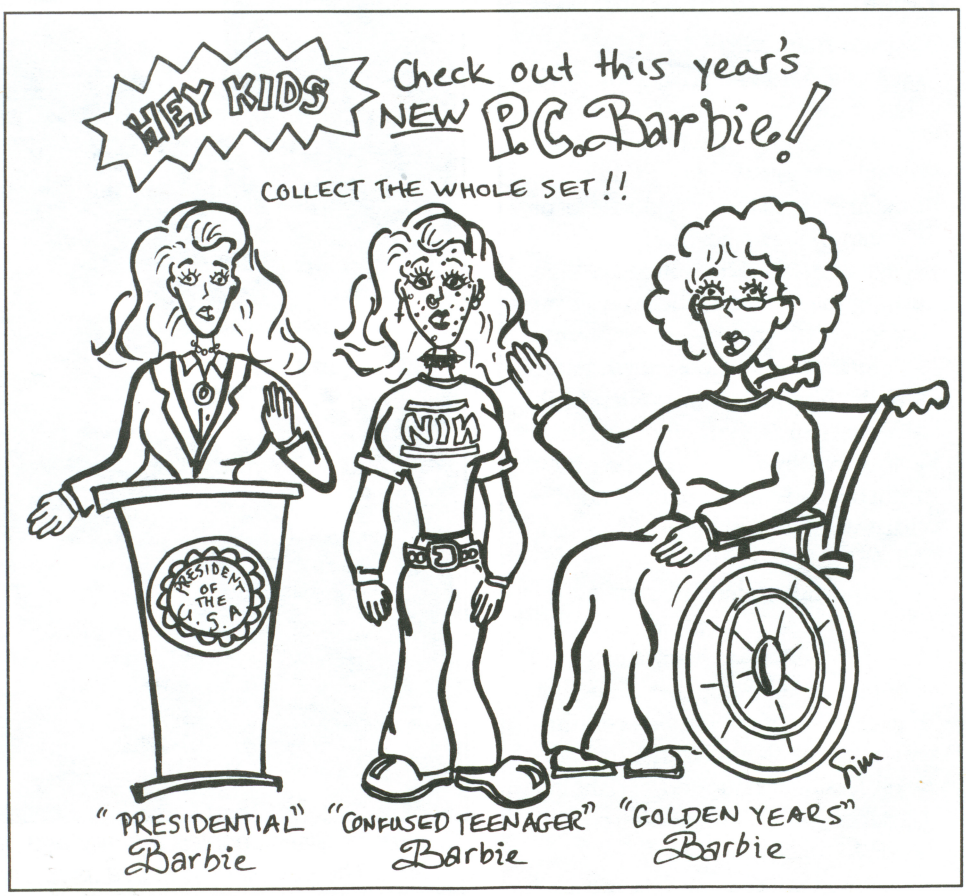
Mattel has decided to make a "more realistic" version of Barbie, but no, they're not going to wipe that permanently-affixed ever-so-annoying smile from her face. And no, she's not losing that "natural" rosy glow from her cheeks. Call it reverse liposuction. Barbie's getting some meat on her bones.

Let's look at this seriously: how realistic can a fake plastic doll get? Even if her waist is wider, her hair straighter, her feet flatter, and her chest smaller, she's still going to be absolutely gorgeous in every way. (Who would shell out thirty bucks for a Miss Plain Jane Barbie?) She'll still have her Cadillac, her mansion, her "office," her hair salon, and her ice cream shop. She'll still have her three ethnic counterparts, 20 versions of the same sister, and 7 versions of her equally fake boyfriend (one for each day of the week maybe?) Seeing that she has 50 different occupations, (hula dancer, rock star, olympic gymnast, princess, and doctor, to name a few,) where does she find "quality time" with Ken?

So what's *really* behind this sudden change? Supposedly, the older version of Barbie sends the wrong image to innocent little girls. Please. What sweet, self-respecting child actually *wants* to look like her toys? Would a six-year-old really deprive herself of her beloved Twinkies just so she can fit into the same size swimsuit as the newest version of Hawaiian Luau Barbie? Children are so much more intelligent than Mattel gives them credit for. It's insulting to say Barbie ruins the self-esteem of children, not only because that's a lie, but because it's a weak excuse for the real reason Mattel is updating Barbie.

Yes, it's true. Mattel is in cahoots with the tobacco industry and has decided to use their tactics to lure in money by getting little girls hooked on Barbies. It's all about making money. Does Mattel care whether or not seven-year-olds supposedly starve themselves to attain gravity-defying figures? The new Barbie is all just a ploy to get little girls addicted to a whole new species of Barbies. Suddenly, the old Barbies must be thrown away to make room for the new kinds, because you can't own just one. (Sound like chain-smoking?) Hearts all over the country will be broken unless the new versions of Hawaiian Hula Barbie, Hawaiian Luau Barbie, and Hawaiian Surfer Barbie are all found under the Christmas tree.

Well, at least they don't cause cancer.



PRO/CON

Should Acalanes have a Closed Campus?

Genevieve Day
Staff Writer

Having a closed campus is like being an animal caged up in the zoo. When college rolls around the corner, would they even dream about having a closed campus? Having an open campus can prepare us for the responsibilities and deadlines which we will participate in when college begins.

Most students will honor and obey the rules that will accompany an open campus, simply for the luxury. Having the freedom to get in the car and go wherever we want at lunch should be a basic right, as long as we get back in time, there should be no problems. If we are late or skip class it is our problem and we can face the consequences.

Although the brunch items such as muffins, cookies, and cheese zombies are an incredible hit, word has it that the school cafeteria's lunch is, well, not very good. Having an open campus would be enjoyable for those who buy their lunches because they can go wherever they want.

Also, for those kids th at r ush in the morning to vigorously stuff their lunch with little odds and ends, it stops with an open campus. Instead of having a thrown together lunch and a smashed peanut butter sandwich, one can be chomping down anything he or she wants.

Not only will it be more convenient, but it is also cheaper to buy lunch elsewhere. A Taco Bell burrito is sold at school for $1.75 and at Taco Bell it is only $0.69. Therefore, you save over a dollar. The prices on the menu are always getting raised and pretty soon no one will be able to afford cafeteria lunches.

Just having the knowledge of knowing that you can leave will satisfy almost anyone. Having the privelege of being able to leave campus during lunch, will not only instill a greater sense of responsibility in students, but will also make them feel like they are looked upon more maturely by the administration.

Some may say there will be major traffic jams when students are returning to school and their might be, but again, those who leave must be willing to face the consequences . First of all, all sophomores and some others do not park in the front parking lot, secondly not everybody will leave school property, (like the whole freshman class and half of the sophomores) and lastly, not everyone will return at the same time. Therefore there will not be much traffic and if there is then we will learn to come back early enough to get to class on time. That is no reason not to have an open campus.

Administration and suspicious parents may think that students will leave school and smoke marijuana or drink before coming to class. Well surprise, surprise everyone does it on the field anyway.

An open campus is a definite must have for the enjoyment and solitude of the Acalanes student body. It is a change that the school needs to make in the near future.

By Charlie Eaton
Staff Writer

Changing to an open campus at Acalanes would open the flood gates for a surge of irresponsible acts and ultimately demean the educational environment.

Having attended North Tahoe High School, an open campus high school, I have witnessed the consequences that an open campus carries, the gravest of these consequences being increased cuts.

Students cut far more at the open campus school than at Acalanes because it is easier and they have somewhere to go. If students want to cut at NTHS, they can simply walk off the campus after having their attendance taken for a class or having a friend mark them present.

At Acalanes, students have to slip by border patrol, a.k.a. Paul, on the way out and the way in. Consequently, skipping one class with a teacher who has poor attendance taking skills (yes there are a few), is nearly out of the question.

In addition to cuts, tardies are much more common at NTHS. Kids returning from cutting a class the previous period or leaving campus for lunch, often find themselves wandering into class late, losing valuable class time.

When kids leave the campus legally at NTHS it's to no benefit. Some leave to grab something to eat, but many leave campus to smoke cigarettes or get high. At Acalanes kids already do this seventh period in obvious places. Consequently, opening the campus would be an invitation for kids to attend their last two or three periods stoned.

The poor food and exorbitant prices in the cafeteria, courtesy of Marriot, demand a solution. Furthermore, students could obtain better, cheaper food and retrieve forgotten lunches under an open campus. However, while this would break Marriot's mini-monopoly, it is by no means the best solution for the lunch dilemma. Freshmen and sophomores would still be confined to the campus without cars because no quality food can be purchased in walking distance (Shell doesn't count). Even if freshmen and sophomores could leave campus, that benefit wouldn't outweigh the consequences of an open campus.

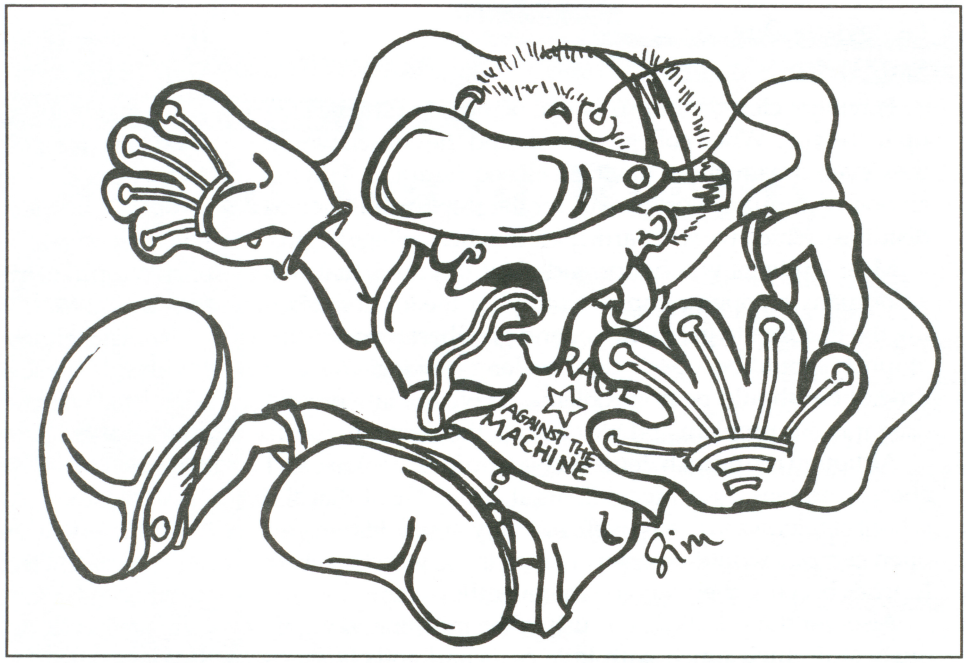
One might make the arguement that a closed campus doesn't prepare students for the flexible college environment which demands a degree of responsibility (partying six instead of seven days of the week and attending at least 50% of your classes). But when asking how a student likes college, who has ever heard the response, "well, I really wasn't ready for the responsibility of it all because my high school was a closed campus."

School can be a painful place, and we all might want to flee its confines sometimes. However, high school should be a place where the most critical learning in a persons life occurs. If we open our campus we will turn our backs on this learning. Our efforts should be concentrated on not making students want to leave.

EATON THIS

Virtual Reality Virtually Bites

By Charlie Eaton
Staff Writer



Blueprint Illustration/Sim Peyron

At Virtual World in Walnut Creek kids and adults alike can command gigantic robots and blow off the limbs of fellow players using heat seeking missiles, atomic mini-bombs, and subatomic photon lasers. How this could be done within the perimeters of Walnut Creek would baffle our bearded friend, Ted Kaczynski, and fellow Luddites. However, any child of the nineties could tell you this terrific feat is accomplished through the illusion of virtual reality.

Youths thrill in commanding virtual robots to crush their enemies (who were close friends only a few minutes ago) without consequence. But it escapes me how firing a missile with enough punch to destroy most of Lafayette at a 40 ft. tall walking chunk of metal which houses your best friend is "virtually real." The oxymoron is more absurd than "military intelligence" or even "zero tolerance" here at Acalanes.

Nintendo 64 takes a step closer towards consequentialness virtual mayhem with the game *James Bond Golden Eye*. Up to four players can dash and duck around firing pistols, lasers, and even grenade launchers in this "virtually real" video game. Nevertheless, I doubt I'd enjoy putting a bullet hole in my best friend's head with a Cougar Magnum in reality. Unless, of course, I could just press "restart" and bring him back to life.

"Virtual" reality makes extensive occupational training in fields like surgery and aeronautics possible. Do you suppose they hold virtual funerals for the virtual patients who bite the virtual dust? And does a virtual FBI investigate the virtual crashes suspecting terrorist involvement and the use of a virtual missile launcher in the downing of a virtual plane? Of course not; this is the realm of virtual reality, a land without consequence and therefore, without even a trace of reality.

Certainly, President Clinton could have used some virtual presidency training before he actually assumed office. I can see a virtual crisis flashing onto the President's screen and Bill asking to see the opinion polls before he makes any virtual decisions. You'd think one term would have been enough for him to learn some leadership skills. Nevertheless, the man's political positions are still virtually dictated by public opinion. It's as though he only has virtual integrity.

I think we're not realizing the full potential of virtual reality. At Acalanes we could solve scores of problems with virtual reality. We've already begun to alleviate any teaching deficiencies with Virtual High School. I propose we extend this technology to extracurriculars as well.

Next year we could have virtual float-building. Students could build floats in safety, free of any dangerous projectiles. And for the rebellious sorts, we could have virtual raids with eggs, paint-balls, M-80's, and even those ever-popular flaming, flying potatoes.

Add a dash of virtual ethnicity and students at Acalanes could step into a brave new world where almost everyone is not white or asian. However, I'm not sure if technology could fool Acalanes kids into believing such a reality exists.

And for our protective parents, who keep us safe inside our walls, we could have virtual breathalyzers. Students would be able to booze all they want and still blow zero after zero. But I guess drunken students already pass by dance alcohol inspectors easily enough.

We could further boost parental confidence with virtual grades on virtual report cards. What parent wouldn't like to see a report card lined with "A's"? Sure, their children might not be getting those grades in reality, but they virtually are. After all, at Acalanes it's not learning we value, but grades and SAT scores, because that's what gets us to the college of our choice and maintains the status quo. With virtual grades it could be that much easier.

And I rest assured that technology will perpetually make our lives easier by eliminating the need to examine our own actions. In fact, I wouldn't be the least bit surprised if one day I could virtually eat pizza, with my virtual family, after a fulfilling day of virtual work. Of course, while we're all caught up in our virtual world, we might destroy our environment and overpopulate the planet by a few billion people in the mean time (unless we develop virtual copulation).

Now would that be virtual stupidity or actual stupidity?

WICKHAM'S WIT

The Bell Tolls for Jolly Old St. Nick

By Teressa Wickham
Staff Writer

When you first hear that there's no Santa, you're heart is broken. You mean that big fat jolly guy who travels the entire world in less than twenty four hours, flies with reindeer, and possesses a bottomless pit of a bag, isn't real? You've got to be kidding me. He has to be real, Santa can travel the world. I mean, there are time changes, so he gains a couple of hours. Right? Wrong. So you don't believe anymore. But, when Christmas comes around each year, each child that knows the truth pretends to believe in the jolly fat guy again, in fear of not receiving presents.

"He knows when you are sleeping, he knows when you're awake. He knows if you've been bad or good, so be good for goodness sake!" And this song, which holds many verses quite like this one, scared a lot of little children into being, or trying to be, perfect little angels for Santa Claus.

Then comes the truth.

Every once in awhile, you come across a child who will swear on everything that they saw Santa themselves, or a part of Santa. I remember, that when I was a kid, I saw Rudolph's nose, and I heard Santa's bells. For the longest time I believed that I really did see it, even after I found out who Santa really was. And although I know now that it was my mother who shone that little red light out my bedroom window, and jingled those bells, I still believe that it was real. Because, at that time, I didn't know, and the feeling of hearing Santa just doesn't go away.

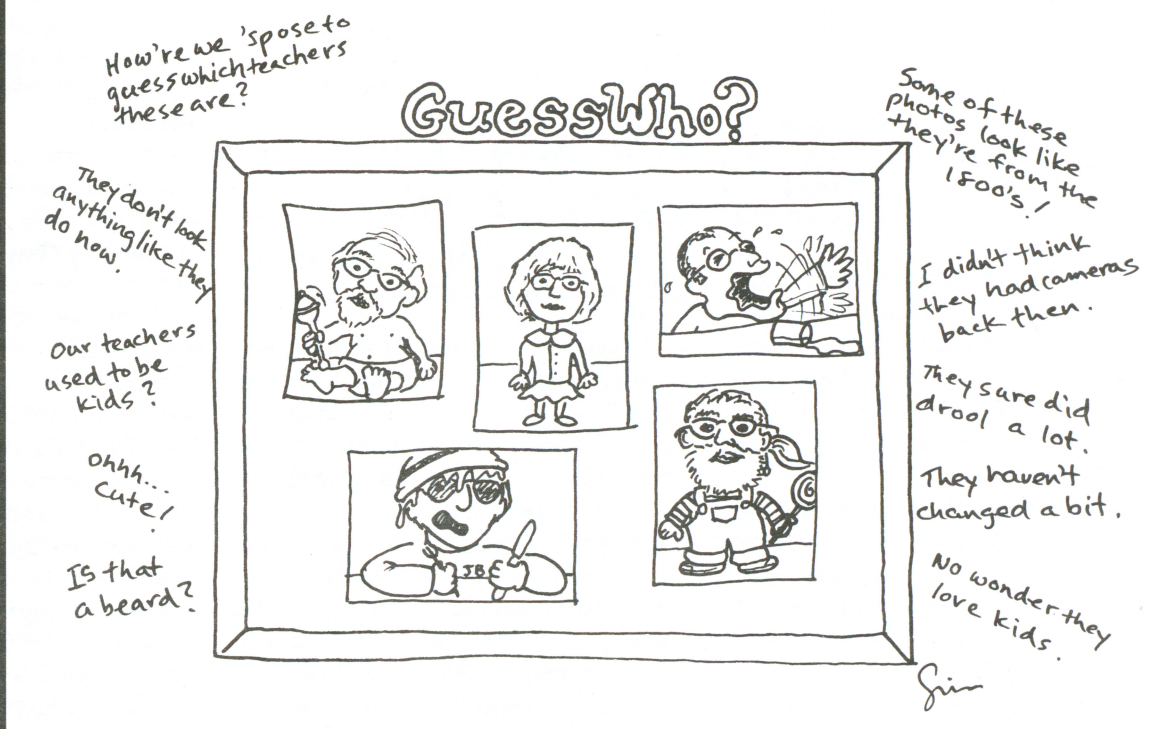
But even when you know that Santa was just a make believe jolly guy, you still try to act as good as you possibly can. As if, in some odd and demented way, your parents would suddenly not buy you gifts anymore because you didn't believe.

Then you get a little older, and everyone knows that you're too cool for those baby Santa stories now. And suddenly, sitting on Santa's lap to tell him what you want for Christmas, and to make mommy proud isn't fun anymore. Instead, you go and sit on Santa's lap with your boyfriend or girlfriend because it's cute. You think that it's so adorable, you and your stud, or babe, on the guy that is way too un-cool for you to believe in.

Remember when you used to put cookies and milk out for Santa, and a few carrots for his reindeer? And remember how you used to check that the fire was out in the fire place so Santa wouldn't burn himself? Well, you wouldn't be caught dead doing that anymore, would you? I don't think so. Do you have any idea what you would say if they found out that you still did that stuff? It wouldn't be pretty. But, if you have a younger sibling that still believes in Santa, then you're just helping them, right?

So you never really out grow Santa, or Christmas. Each person believes in him in a different way. Whether it be because he's real or just if he makes you and your stud look cute, he's still there, and he's not going away.

STMitorials


How're we 'spose to guess which teachers these are?
GuessWho?
Some of these photos look like they're from the 1800's!
They don't look anything like they do now.
I didn't think they had cameras back then.
Our teachers used to be kids?
They sure did drool a lot.
Ohhh... Cute!
They haven't changed a bit.
Is that a beard?
No wonder they love kids.
JBE
Jim

A CALANES BLUEPRINT
ENTERTAINMENT

INSIDE . . . . . .

Spielberg's New Amistad Confronts American Slavery
pg. 17

BAYWATCH

Baywatch Drowns in Sea of Reality

By Andria Flakoll
Staff Writer

Compared to real lifeguarding, Baywatch barely makes a splash, yet millions, Acalanes students among them, watch it for reasons well known to the naked eye. In terms of other body parts, the show projects an image of lifeguards, both physical and with respect to their jobs, that fits like Rush Limbaugh in a size three speedo. It really stretches things.

There's more to Baywatch than big-busted Bettys, although they do take up a lot of space. There's the intriguing story line. Just look at any TV Guide plot summary: "Stephanie Holden has a brush with morality when she develops skin cancer, Mitch adopts a young girl, and a marriage occurs for one of the team members." Believe it or not, Baywatch's unit publicist Shannon Cobleigh said, "Baywatch brings back the action adventure side of television for the whole family."

But is it really child proof? Jon, a San Luis Obispo lifeguard, said, "Baywatch is a complete soap opera. That's much too inappropriate for the kids that watch it."

Despite the view about Baywatch's reality level and age appropriateness, Baywatch has the potential to be real. Afterall, Baywatch's executive producer, Greg Bonann, was a Malibu beach lifeguard for many years. Yet, for the most part, Baywatch's rescues are a tiny bit of fact stuffed in the spandex of fiction. In order to make the show interesting, Greg Bonann has forgotten what the truth is and now resorts to plots removed from reality and remotely expressing, at best, a grain of sand called the truth.

Try this on for size, maybe even one bigger than Pamela Anderson's: a past episode featured an assassination attempt underway for a politician giving a speech on the pier. Headed straight towards him was a boat, bomb, and a big busted BWLG (Baywatch Lifeguard of course!). Before it hit the pier, killing everyone, another BWLG jumped aboard, untied the BWLG, and stopped the bomb. To make the show interesting, Hollywood dramatization takes the plunge, submerging anything remotely related to real lifeguarding on California beaches. "Baywatch overdramatizes criminal activity and acts of terrorism, which basically takes away from the lifeguarding aspect of the show," said Erik, a San Diego lifeguard.

"Baywatch overdramatizes criminal activity and acts of terrorism, which basically takes away from the lifeguarding aspect of the show."
-Erik, a lifeguard

If Baywatch were factual, it would add up to a whole bunch of terrible lifeguards doing their best to do the worst possible job of saving lives. An episode never ends before someone is given CPR. Well, the truth of the matter is, any marginally average lifeguard would save a person before CPR ever becomes necessary. "In my career as a lifeguard I've had to give CPR only once, and even then it wasn't due to a water related incident," said Erik.

BWLG's would be better off letting people die than attempting CPR. Their method is more like a commercial for Big Red than a life saving technique. The show should warn its viewer not to try the BWLG's version of CPR at home, it's a dead give away for a waste of time. Baywatch seems to have the mistaken impression that people just suddenly wake up after CPR, like zombies for the dead. The Camp Pendelton lieutenant says, "Unfortunately, when someone's heart stops CPR is only able to bring the person back 75% of the time." But on Baywatch given a little lip action, especially mouth to mouth, anyone's sure to revive. Maybe even the viewer.

The Camp Pendelton lifeguard service in the San Diego emphasizes a preventive approach to ocean lifeguarding. Their idea is to identify hazards and in turn prevent drownings, whereas Baywatch waits until someone is drowning and in turn gives CPR. The BWLG's are too busy talking to anyone in a bikini to do their jobs. So at their beach don't expect too much.

Both in fact and fiction, the bright red suit is a lifeguard tradition. However, the similarity ends there. The lifeguards at the near by "bay" are in no way decked out in skimpy, cleavage revealing suits. They're there to watch, right, (for viewers that is, not for swimmers in danger)? That is why it's called BAYWATCH. Or would a more appropriate title sound something like Buffwatch, Bunwatch, or even Bassoomwatch? Watch one episode and buff buns and premiere pecs will be jumping, near 3-D, through the TV screen.

Cobliegh contends that stereotyping lifeguards as big busted and bicep rippled while modeling the skimpy suit "doesn't hurt." But does it help? The age range the show targets is 18-34, and its most

cont'd on page 18

MOVIE FORUM

Amistad Works Dreams Despite Sentiment

By Bret Taylor
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Amistad
(Dream Works, 1997) Rated: *R*

Amistad, Steven Spielberg's latest film with his Dream Works production company, is the graphic tale of the slave revolt on the Spanish ship La Amistad almost 150 years ago. It follows the struggle of a group of abolitionists led by Theodore Joadson (Morgan Freeman) and a shallow lawyer named Baldwin (Matthew McConaughey) in their legal struggles to prove that the group of slaves from a Spanish ship should be set free after they land on American soil.

The film's strongest aspect is its development of character depth, most notably in Baldwin and John Quincy Adams (Anthony Hopkins), the ex-President who ultimately argues the Amistad case before the Supreme Court. Avoiding cliches, Spielberg exposes their flaws and their selfishness while simultaneously showing their metamorphosis into more compassionate human beings, climaxing on Adams' stirring oratory before the Supreme Court. Similarly, Morgan Freeman, as a sophisticated and educated black American, illustrates perfectly the struggle he goes through and the separation he feels from the African slaves.

Notable also is Djimon Hounsou, who plays the leader of the group of slaves off the Amistad. He never speaks a word of English and manages to still evoke emotion from the audience and his co-stars.

The film's one major drawback is its barrage of sentiment at the end of the film. Spielberg aimlessly throws in cheesy heroics and tragic narrations in attempt to tie up all of the loose ends he created in the final scenes. He would have been better off just ending the film after Hopkins' Supreme Court monologue; the ending tidbits merely clutter the plot with pointless facts and Spielberg-typical sentiment, leaving a sour taste in the viewer's mouth.

However, the films portrayal of the nineteenth century slave trade and the "Middle Passage" is graphic and revealing, successfully instilling the points Spielberg is attempting to make. The film is worth seeing just for the impression it leaves.

The Rainmaker
(Constellation Films, 1997) Rated: *PG-13*

Walking into *The Rainmaker*, I pessimistically anticipated another typical Grisham-style corporate suspense melodrama. However, by the ending credits, my presumptions were completely blown away.

With the eloquent cinematography and intricate planning typical of director Francis Coppola, *The Rainmaker* easily surpasses its Grisham predecessors and most other dramas of this year. Following a typical law graduate from Memphis State, Rudy Baylor (Matt Damon), and his less-than-respectable partner Deck Shiffler (Danny DeVito) in their battles with a sleazy insurance company, its unique plot and realistic acting provides for an enjoyable and involving experience.

Most notable about the film is its consistent attachment to realism. When Rudy Baylor enters the courtroom for the first time, he actually stutters instead of bursting out with the typical court room drama anticipated from most Hollywood films. Similarly, when the sleazy, criminal members of Rudy Baylor's new law firm come on screen, they appear sleazy, greasy skin and plaid suits included. This staunch realism reinforces the plot by making the events seem closer to home, adding to the effect of the film as a whole.

All of the actors manage to follow this trend, realistically portraying their characters without reverting to melodrama. Even Danny DeVito manages to shed his typecast role to show amazing character depth. Claire Daines is also impressive as an abused wife who has fallen in love with Rudy.

The film is a refreshing and unique change from most crime dramas, combining suspense with subtle comedy and romance, all intertwined around ingenious editing and cinematography by Coppola. It even manages to stick reasonably closely to the plot of Grisham's original novel.

Courtesy Photo

Djimon Hounsou examines his concience and his confidence in humanity as he is put on trial in Amistad.

OLD LIBRARY BOOKS

(Weaving) Pages of the Past

By Chris Kinney
Staff Writer

The Acalanes Library is piled up with books that have not been checked out since Acalanes held its first love-in.

One of them is about weaving, which could be interesting, but it still hasn't been checked out since before the senior class was born. Of course, there are always worse cases, like From Pushkin to Pasternik, a Russian primer book that has not been checked out since 1976.

Last May, after tutors Matt Nolan and Doug Senz finished tutoring Social Studies students in the Acalanes Library, they explored the library. "The 'best' book I found in there was Man as a Weaver," said Nolan. In the back corner of the library they found books that had not been checked out since 1969, including one on setting animal traps.

Karlyn Ford, the head librarian, said that, "Every book here doesn't necessarily have to be checked out...[the books] are here so we can look at them for information." She also said that they are kept because the books are reference material, and reference material doesn't always get checked out.

"Believe me, I have weeded and weeded and weeded," said Ford. She also said that she has cut down on the number of books in the library.

Sophomore Emily Senturia is one of the many students who is confused as to why the books are in there. "I think it's sort of stupid, that they have books so unpopular that no one ever reads them," said Senturia.

The way Ford determines whether or not to save a book is by the number of the books on the subject. "If we don't have anything else on the subject, we keep it, because, otherwise, a teacher might come up with something in the curriculum that we need."

Ford also said that with all the new interests, one never knows when some one will check out a book.

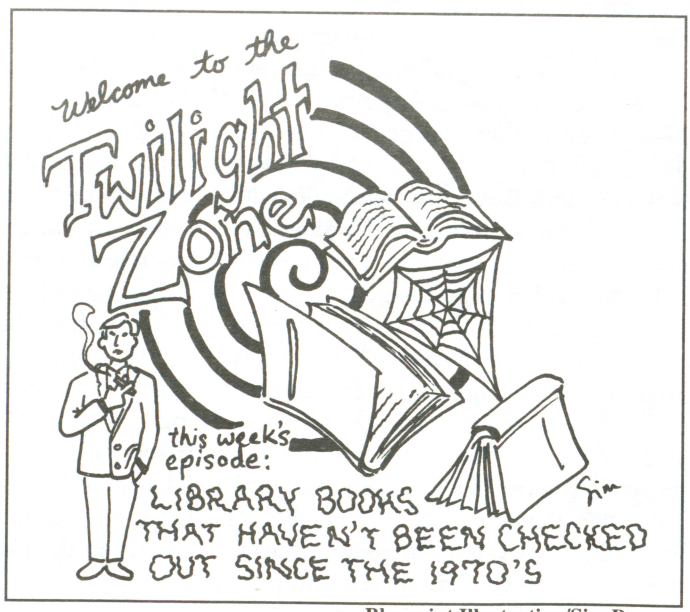
The books that are scraped are given either to the public library, or to another High School, depending on their need of a book on the topic.

Some of these books include On Weaving, by Anni Albers, which shows the art of weaving, how to perform certain stitches, and the origin of weaving. It hasn't been checked out since April 12, 1971.

From Pushkin to Pasternik, by Harry Josselson, which is a Russian Primer, therefore it is mainly in Russian, and hasn't been checked out since April 28, 1976.

God's Own Junkyard, by Peter Blake, is a book about the deteriorating condition of America's society. This is clearly not a reference book, but the library has kept it, despite the fact that it hasn't been checked out since February of 1970.

All the Ways of Building, by L. Lamprey, is about the different styles of buildings. It hasn't been checked out since before President Kennedy was shot in 1963. No one has checked these books out for longer than this year's senior class has been alive.



Blueprint Illustration/Sim Peyron

BAYWATCH (cont'd)

cont'd from page 16

likely those young adults are only attracted to the exciting story line. Changing the image of Baywatch lifeguards would, most likely, put a damper on the show's popularity, as well as viewer's libidos.

"Baywatch's female lifeguards are overexposed. The show make it seem as if their looks got them the job as opposed to their athleticism," said Erik.

The truth of the matter is lawyers don't wear Levis to court, and similarly lifeguards don't wear skimpy suits to the beach. It's that simple. Why would anyone who is so visible to the public eye choose to be a sex object when it isn't necessary? Well no one does. Real life female guards wear red, and that's about the only similarity to Baywatch.

What makes Baywatch more farfetched and degrading is exactly what makes it the most watched show in the world. However ironic that statements seems, it's the naked truth. Take away the big buff bods, and the "babe" is taken out of "lifeguard." People want the skimpy suit, and even more the body that goes inside it. Real lifeguards don't. Without it, Baywatch loses points with the public, and that's a huge no no. So when Shannon Cobleigh said that physical appearance of the BWLG "doesn't hurt" she also meant it helped, big time.

If the real world, bun and basoomless lifeguards were the basis of a TV show, it would make for an even worse combo. T.V. Guide would have to read "watch Lifewatch tonight at eight, when a lifeguard swims out to a person caught in a rip current and moving dangerously close to a rock jetty only to warn the person of the impending danger and request they move inland".

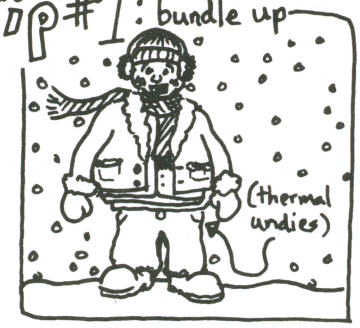
The show would drown in the algae of its own dullness. So unfortunately for the present, what stinks stays because the public won't have Baywatch any other way. We're stuck with it.

THE FUNNIES

here we go, Seniors! Sim's Guide to the East Coast COLLEGE TRIP

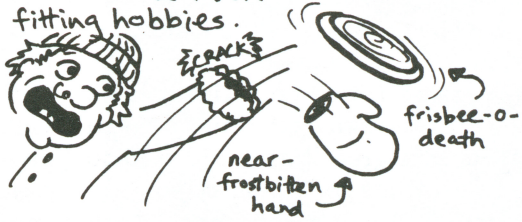
ivy

Tip #1: bundle up



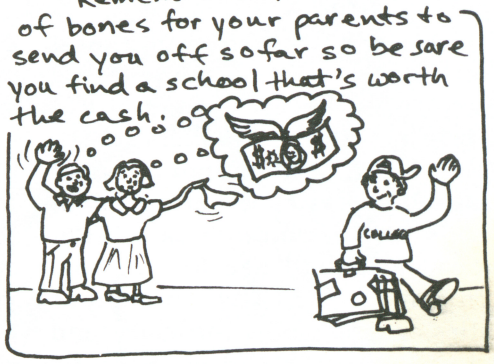
Tip #2

While attending an East Coast school, former Californians should take care to change their "sunny weather" activities to more fitting hobbies.



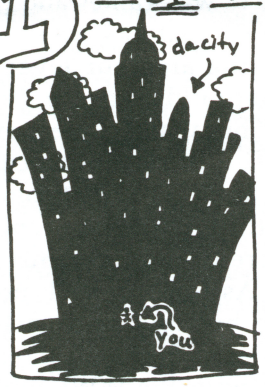
Tip #3

Remember: it cost a lot of bones for your parents to send you off so far so be sure you find a school that's worth the cash.



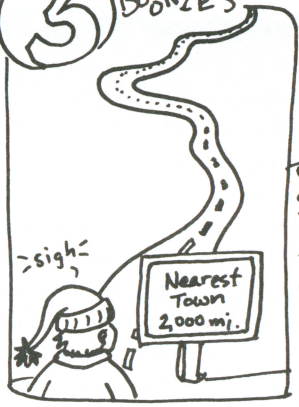
Prospective students have about 3 settings to choose from:

1 THE BIG CITY



2 THE SUBURBS

3 DA BOONIES



Looking for a nice, quiet residence where you can get plenty of studying done? THEN RUSH THE GREEK SYSTEM!!

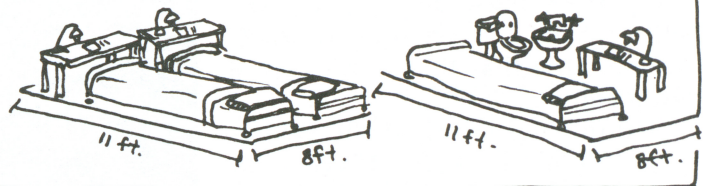
ΛΩΔ

Tip #4

It is recommended to sample the cuisine at the schools one is interested in. (you're going to eat that slop for 4 years)

When looking into dorms and residence halls, avoid those described as: snug, cozy, compact, tiny, claustrophobic...etc.

Dorm for two vs. Prison Cell for one



Good Luck!

Jim

A CALANES BLUEPRINT
SPORTS

INSIDE . . . . . .

Girls Soccer Beat Campolindo
pg. 26

SPORTS

Spree -- Well on His Way. . . Out

By Ben Conley
Sports Editor

Its funny how we think of professional sports as grown men playing sports when too often they act like immature little third graders at best. Look at the now infamous act of baseball superstar Roberto Alomar spitting in an umpire's face, infamous basketball bad-boy Dennis Rodman and his....well, numerous antics against league officials, and the Chicago Bear's Brian Cox's recent explosion of rage during a nationally televised NFL football game.

Now this: the event that brings the excitement of the ring to the hardwood floor. Let's get ready to rumble. Golden State Warrior Latrell Sprewell...or former Golden State Warrior Latrell Sprewell and his WWF style attack on head coach P.J. Carlesimo probably could have made more through pay-per-view than the Tyson-Holyfield ear biting incident. No, Sprewell did not attack a player, a teammate, a fan, or even the most hated person on the court, the ref. No, Sprewell decided to choke his coach.

The question is, are coaches these days too hard on their players, or are players these days so spoiled, self-conscious, overpaid and under accountable that they can't take a little yelling?

I think the latter of the two is what's going on here. Players are showing that they can't take even a little criticism. We already know that Sprewell can't. Don't tell him he's having a bad hair day or he might suplex you a couple times. Sprewell is saying that Carlesimo was "verbally abusive" and is using O.J.'s lawyer (Johnnie Cochran) to defend himself. Oh, so now Sprewell's "defending" himself when he was actually trying to strangle his coach. Cry me a river you big baby. What do we want Carlesimo to say " Um..., pardon me, Mr. Sprewell, but you didn't back cut hard enough last time, I mean you looked great but could you to try to do it maybe a teensy weensy bit faster? Please, pretty please with sugar on top? By the way, how's the family?"

What makes me want to throw up is that pathetic, sorry excuse for an apology that Sprewell made on national television. Obviously he didn't write it, all he had to do was memorize it.

Well, hopefully anyone with a brain won't take anything he says for real. What would have been nice was an apology to Carlesimo right after the incident. Nevertheless, the incident shouldn't have even happened in the first place.

Come on, anyone who's competed in sports has come across a coach who seems to be on a power trip, or who likes to yell his head off but you just deal with it. You understand that no matter how much of a jerk he is he is still your coach and if he is your coach he is there for a reason and you should treat him with the utmost respect. A little yelling can help a team as well. I always find it wakes me up when a coach gets in my face. What would sports be like if coaches coached like psychiatrists?

Coaches at the professional level are there to win games and they are going to do that any way they can. Yeah, at the amateur level maybe coaches shouldn't be so "verbally abusive" but when players are making multi-million dollar contracts that you and I pay for, it comes with the territory. If a player can't take a little screaming, get out of the league. As for Sprewell, nobody's laughing but as I said earlier, it's funny. Maybe Sprewell should look for a job with the WWF while he's sitting on his rear.

VOICES FROM COACHES

"I don't think that anyone is justified in violently attacking anyone else.

-Gordon Finn

"You have to criticize the action and not the person."

-Brian Monty

"You really need to know your players to get the most out of them. As soon as maximum performance is in jeopardy, you've gone too far."

-Andee Henrotin

WRESTLING

AHS Wrestling Grapples Way to Top

By Jake Zarah
Staff Writer

Most students enjoy Saturdays because they get to sleep in and they don't have school. But for wrestlers, Saturdays have an entirely different meaning. Saturdays are tournament days, when hours of practice are displayed in just minutes of tournament heroics. The Acalanes wrestling team did just that when they placed sixth at the Clayton Valley Invitational Tournament.

The annual Clayton Valley Invitational Tournament is a tough tournament in which some of the area's best wrestlers come and strut their stuff. This pre-season tournament consists of a sixteen person bracket for each weight class. The Dons prepared well for their first tournament of the year. "We didn't do a lot of actual wrestling to prepare, but we did a lot on perfecting moves, which really helped," said returning senior co-captain Dan Engle.

Engle was one of the many bright spots for the Dons. Engle entered the tournament as the first seed in the 135 pound bracket, and he left the tournament still on top. After receiving byes in the first two rounds, Engle came out hungry for action. He pinned his first opponent, and went on to pin his second and final opponent to earn first place. "When I found out who I was going to wrestle, I was pretty confident that I was going to pin both of them," said Engle.

Junior co-captain Scott Seibert continued the Acalanes effort with a second place finish in the 160 pound bracket. Seibert entered the tournament unseeded, and played the role of the underdog throughout. In his first match, he defeated his bigger opponent 13-3. Seibert went on to pin his next opponent to earn a place in the championship. In the championship match, Seibert fought hard, but succumbed to a wrestler who would later be named MVP of the tournament. "After entering (the tournament) unseeded, I was a little discouraged, but I kept my head

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Blueprint Photo/Alexis Weir

Junior wrestler Scott Seibert (foreground) along with his teammates rolls out the mats in preparation for one of their many rigorous practices.

INSIDE LOOK

Wrestling at a Glance

Chris Kinney
Staff Writer

You wake up in the morning. It is pitch black outside, and you notice that it is colder than usual. Not so. You just think it's colder because you have had no nutrition for the past week. Welcome to wrestling.

Wrestling is, without a doubt, the hardest sport at Acalanes. (Of course, now all of the other sport's players will come and whine about how their sport is harder.) So let's look at a day in the life of a wrestler, then compare it to any other sport.

As you get up in the morning, you can't satisfy your craving for Lucky Charms, because you have be at an unnaturally low weight by 5:30pm, when your match is.

Then you go to school, where everyone is shocked by your horrible mood, because you have less sugar in your blood then you would find in a bran muffin. Then, at lunch, your best friend breaks open a huge six foot sub sandwich and starts to eat. In any other sport, you sit next to him, then break out a bigger sandwich and start eating. But this is wrestling, so you have to sit there, starved out of your mind, and watch him eat a yummy sandwich. As the school day winds to a close, you trudge to the small gym, where you weigh yourself and find that you are still too heavy. So it's on with the sweats and out to the track, where you aimlessly run, already weak from lack of food. Finally, 5:30 rolls around, and you strip down to your undergarments in a room with a bunch of other guys. You step on the scale, and see that you are under the necessary weight.

Most people think it ends there. It doesn't. Now that you can eat, you eat as much as you can. But, your stomach has shrunk, due to a lack of food. Then, at about 6:15pm, you realize that you have to wrestle in about an hour.

It hits you. You are so full it hurts to move and all you want to do is lie down. The weight class one lighter than yours is wrestling. You're in your spandex suit, jumping around trying to get ready for your match. Then the referee beckons you to come to the mat.

You walk out onto the mat with a feeling of hopelessness. For the next six minutes, your body will be strained and hurt or will strain and hurt your opponent. The referee blows his whistle as you and your oppo-

cont'd on page 24

SPORTS FOCUS

JV Athletes Prove Ready for Varsity

By Christine Lin and Teressa Wickham
Staff Writers

Girls Water Polo

Although the JV girls water polo team didn't fare as well as the previous season, they wrapped up their season with a 2-5 record and the girls were not disappointed. "We all improved a lot, and we had a good time together. We tried really hard," said freshman driver Ami Paetzold.

The Lady Dons' key game was against Miramonte, not only because they were rivals, but because it showed them how good they could be. Despite the refs counting two very questionable goals for the Mats, the Dons played well, losing 10-6.

During a big game against Campolindo, the girls lost by three, but did exceptionally well compared to their slow start in the beginning of the season.

Sophomore driver Lauren Wondolowski was the star of the season for the Dons. Wondolowski had the ability not only to keep her teammates in high spirits, but she also had the intelligence to play the game. "Lauren...came the farthest in her development as a player. And she's left handed, which gives her an advantage. She was the smartest, and as most coaches tell you, the sport is ninety percent mental and ten percent physical. In her case it really showed, you don't have to be the quickest, you just have to be the smartest," said coach Mike Avery.

As for experience, the girls could have used more time together to truly know their teammates moves in the water.

Boys Water Polo

Ron Richison's boys' JV water polo team ended a successful season, with 16 wins and 7 losses. The team also placed 3rd overall in league.

Sophomore captains Pat Reilly and Conor Deal, led the squad, as the boys battled their way through the monstrous waves. "They really held our team together," said Richison about the two players.

The team lost to their rival Miramonte in several match ups, but they still managed to make a good performance in their season. With this young team, however, they managed to only lose to four teams during the season,

"We had a team that made mistakes, but we never let the mistakes bother us. We just keep coming back, making it a competitive game in every situation...this should be a good nucleus for next year," said Richison.

During the Frosh/Soph tournament, the Dons qualified for the semi-finals by beating three teams, St. Francis, Palo Alto and Lynbrook High School. Their first game of the semi-finals was against Leland High School and they lost 8-6. In the third place game, the Dons were behind 6-2 going into the fourth quarter. They tied the game and then at the buzzer, they scored, but the referees did not count it. Then in overtime, they lost the game by one goal, 7-6.

"You don't have to be the quickest; you just have to be the smartest."

-Coach Mike Avery
Girls Waterpolo

"It was fun and Ron is a really good coach. We were a little disappointed because we didn't do well in our big games, but I know we all improved a lot," said freshmen Quinn Fitzgerald.

Girls Volleyball

The ball came slamming down over the net, crushing any hope left in any other team that wanted to take the title and pride away from the JV girls volleyball team. With a 19-3 record, the girls had an outstanding season. They had Campolindo to thank for two of their losses, and their third loss went to Miramonte. "We did very well because we came in second overall, and we placed in every tournament," said freshman Sam Skaral.

Jill Sexton was the most valuable player on the team. "Jill was a really good all around player," said freshman Jenny Jun. Sexton had the ability to hit the ball pretty hard, and she really got into the game. She was labeled as the best setter by her team, and the best jump setter.

Chiara Wellman also made a difference to the team. She was a team captain, and always had a positive attitude, however yelling was not her style. She also received the coaches award. She set every single game, was a great team player, and never missed a game.

There was a lot of talent on the team this year and the team got along extremely well. "Our team was very enthusiastic. We were definitely loud cheerleaders, even though nobody showed up at the games," said sophomore Katie Burroughs.

The key to their success was communication. They worked well as a team, and they all contributed to the game. Each player mastered specific categories, and put on the court together, they demolished the other teams.

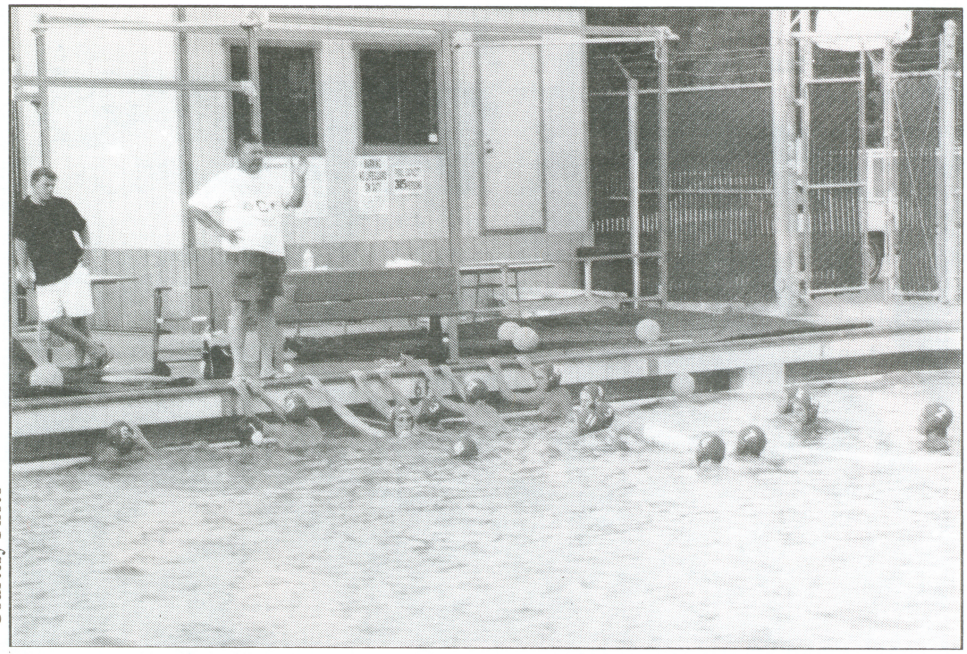
The friendship bonds between the girls on the team were very strong. "We supported one another," said freshman Jesse Plache.

Boys Soccer

With a record of 2-2-3, the boys JV soccer team had an excellent season. Even after tying their most important game against Campo, their season still was one of the best.

The team worked really hard to win, and "we were pretty close and

SPORTS FOCUS



Courtesy Photo

JV Boys waterpolo coach Ron Richison, with the help of Aaron Axton (left), instructs his team on how to stop a counter-attack.

we joked around with each other a lot," said freshman Ryan Mathey.

The star for the season was Matt Johnson who was the speedy fullback on the team. Johnson played great defense and often singlehandedly kept players from scoring on his goal.

Nisan Perera was the team's motivator, and he was always there to put a smile on somebody's face. During practice, Nisan kept the team intact.

In the beginning, the Dons weren't playing very well, but as the season progressed, the talent developed with time among the players. They could have been more serious, as goofing off was not uncommon at practice, making it a pretty easy going team.

Football

Finishing with a record of 6-3-1, the JV football team had nothing to be ashamed of. They had great coaching, leading them to victory in the homecoming game against Granada. "We showed a lot of team effort evenly through for a big win on Homecoming night," said sophomore Damon Peters.

The highlight player of the team was Corry Hardin due to his offensive skills.

The key to their successful season was doing well on both sides of the ball. "Our defense was good. We handled well under pressure. Our defense helped the offense. We got the ball on offense, we were able to just blow it past their defenders and score," said sophomore Brandon Blalock.

As for the whole season, the boys tended to tackle their talent during the season, making for a great year, but not as great as Damon hoped for. However, the unity of the team was there, so as Damon had said, "Go Dons!"

Girls Cross Country

The girls Cross Country team crossed the finish line with a undefeated season going 5-0 and becoming the league champions.

Leading the team to victories over rival schools Campolindo and Miramonte were senior runners Babs Lake and Melissa Powers, and junior runners Sabrina Lee, Monica Donovan and Kirsty Gallagher.

The girls placed first in the Ed Sias Invitational in Martinez, the Clovis Invitational at Woodward Park and the Mt. SAC Invitational in Walnut.

Powers and Lake both had best career performances at the Miramonte course with times of 14:34 for Powers and 14:02 for Lake. Lee's and Gallagher's best career performance time was 13:57 and 14:06 respectivly on the Miramonte course. Monica Donovan's two season best performances were at Heather Farms with the time of 14:42 and at the three mile race at Clovis Invitational at Woodward Park with the time of 23:06.

"I was happy that I finished my cross country career in high school on a good note," said Powers. "We were undefeated and we got first in league meet and that was exciting...to know you are the best in your league," she said.

"The girls did really great this year and they all had a good season," said cross-country coach Manny Myers.

Boys Cross Country

The boys cross country team sprinted to the finish line with a 3-2 season and came in 5th in league.

At the Artichoke Invitational at Half Moon Bay, the boys managed to place 7th and at the Clovis Invitational at Woodward Park, the boys finished 11th overall.

Top runner senior Paul Twohey said his best race would have to be when he ran a two miler in twelve minutes. Twohey's fastest race for this season was at Heather Farms Park against with the time of 12:16.

"The team had a really positive attitude and a lot of people (on the team) were on it for the fun of it. There wasn't as much pressure because we weren't really the top runners," said junior Adam Nilsen.

Girls Tennis

This year the JV tennis team, despite being a young team with first year players, managed to ace an undefeated season. The team was more of a "building team," said coach Judy Corliss.

The two players Corliss counted on most were freshmen April Ho and Theresa Bellagamba.

cont'd on page 25

BOYS BASKETBALL

Boys Place 2nd in Tourney

Ramp Leads Dons with 20 in Finale

By Ben Conley
Sports Editor

Despite winning the Washington-Fremont Huskie Classic last season, the Dons could not successfully defend their title as they lost to the host Huskies 69-62. The loss dropped the Don's record to 3-2.

The most heartbreaking thing about the night was that the Dons were in command of the game for the entire first half. After the first quarter the Dons were up 19-14 and the lead grew to 34-28 at the intermission. During the third quarter the tides turned as the score was tied at 52 at the end of the third quarter.

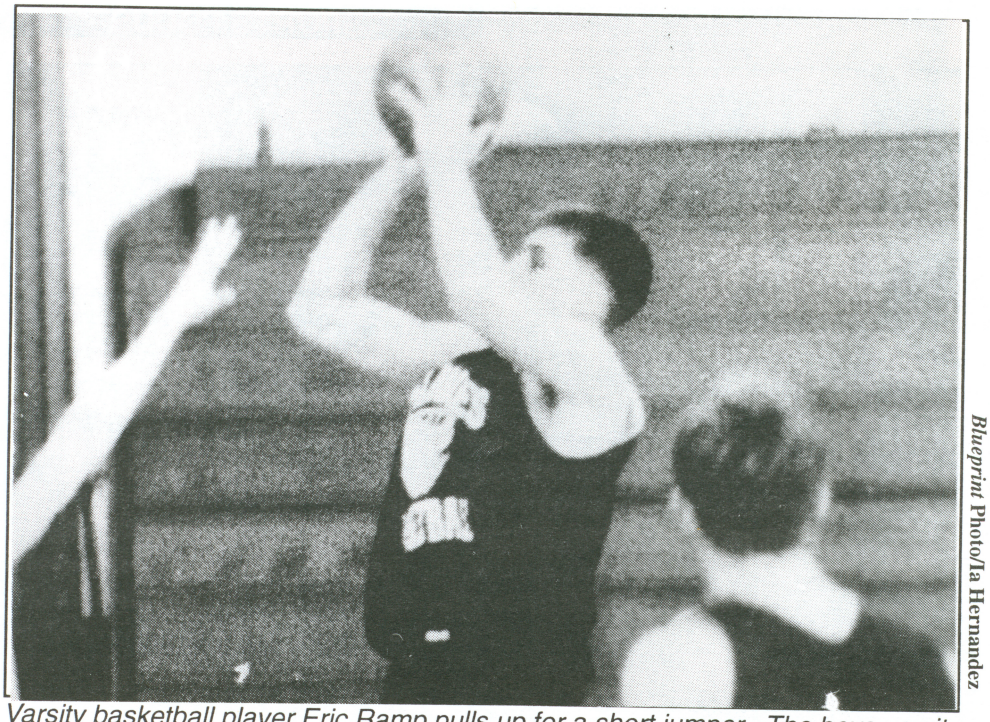
With the fact that the Washington Huskies are in the same North Coast Section as the Dons, the post season could possibly have a rematch of this encounter at the Huskie Classic.

Junior Eric Ramp led the Dons with 20 points including three 3's as senior Chris Nelson chipped in 13 of his own including one from behind the arc.

In their semi-final game Acalanes squeaked by Valley Christian 69-67. After taking a considerable lead in the first half, the Dons again made the game close as Valley Christian put on a press that Acalanes couldn't break.

"We played really well the first half but we couldn't keep up the intensity in the second half. We couldn't break their press in the second half either," said senior Matt Streumpf.

In their first round game, Acalanes breezed by El Camino 74-61. Ramp again led the Dons again with 19 points and hit three 3's. Junior point guard Justin Smith was next in scoring for Acalanes with 14 points.



Blueprint Photo/Ia Hernandez

Varsity basketball player Eric Ramp pulls up for a short jumper. The boys varsity team made to the finals of the recent Huskie Classic.

INSIDE LOOK (cont'd)

cont'd from page 21

nent begin to circle each other, each waiting for the other one to make a move. Wrestling consists of a move, then a counter to that move, then a counter to the counter, so on and so forth; until one person can't counter his opponents' counter, and the opponent wins.

He goes low and tries to get your leg. You throw your body weight on top of him, and then, before you know it, your down on the mat. You struggle to get up but can't. Your only thought is to not get pinned as your opponent twists your arms and legs. You wait for the round to end, but it is the longest two minutes of your life. Finally the round ends and you get up off the sweaty mat. The referee flips the coin, and it is your decision.

Now you must choose. Do you want to be on top of him and try to control him and hardly get any points, do you want to be under him and try to stand up for a quick point, or do you want to start neutral, like you did in the first round?

You choose to be on top. As the referee blows the whistle, you feel in control. But that changes quickly, for your center of gravity is just a little too far over him, and he flips you onto your back. Frantically, you realize this might be the end of the match. Now begins the mental war.

Do you allow him to pin you so that you can be finished and walk off the mat, or do you resist in hopes that you might win?

If you lose, then you go off the mat feeling horrible, but at least it's over. If you keep trying, you still might lose, but there is a possibility that you might win. Whatever your decision, the pain doesn't end. If you lose you will be ridiculed, and if you win, you will have to wrestle more matches in the same day.

And eventually you will be able to finally eat a good meal.

The next day in practice, after you step on the scale, you see how much you've gained, and the whole process starts over again. You try to lose weight, only to gain it back after weigh-ins. Then you have to lose it again, and this ridiculous cycle continues on until the end of the season, when a wrestler can rejoice and pig out without having to lose it until next wrestling season.

Wrestling follows you wherever you go. So if you see a wrestler on Monday, don't aggravate him, he doesn't need any more pain in this cold, dark, wrestling winter.

ALTERNATIVE SPORTS

Rugby Leaves Lasting Impression

By Elizabeth Johnson
Staff Writer

Rugby is like a graceful, slightly diluted form of war. The game is vicious, with legalized cleating, and huge, dog-pile tackles, but it also has a surreal rhythm as the ball is passed laterally down a chain of running players. This year, four Acalanes students: Zeke Durantini, Scott Shaw, Dave Schuknecht, and Shari Hakkak are playing on the local rugby team, the Rodents, — and have the cuts and bruises to prove it.

"I have a bite mark on my thumb," said Durantini after his first game. "You can see where the first two front teeth and the canines were." He had been running with the ball, and someone had used his head to knock the ball out of Durantini's arms, and accidentally took a chunk of skin as well.

With no protective gear, except for a mouthpiece, the game can become quite grueling. When "they fight for the ball, things can get pretty dirty, because you can end up at the bottom of the pile getting your head kicked in," said senior Eric Andersen, who played rugby in Australia. After a tackle, playing starts again with a ruck, with one player curled up around the ball on the ground, the other players raking him with their cleats in an attempt to get at the ball.

The ball is thrown in with a scrum, where the hooker, propped up between two other players, tries to kick the ball out, to the other side of the field. Then the ball is passed down a line of players, who are lined up at a forty-five degree angle to the edge of the playing field. "You can't pass forward, so passes are always to the person running behind you, and you try to get the ball all the way to the outside, around the defenders. Then you can pass it back, try to work it around, to try to get it as far down the field as you can," said Shaw.

Rugby is truly a team sport. "Every player has to be able to pass the ball, every player has to be able to catch it, kick it, throw it. . . it's not like football, where there's linemen who don't do anything but block," said Andersen.

The sport has often been described as a mix between football and soccer, although it is older than both. "When you score, it's a try, it's not a touch down, you have to put the ball down. You kick field goals, like football, but while running down the field. The way to start, it's called a scrum, where all the linemen fight for the ball. There are no first, second, or third downs, it's anybody's ball; you fight for it the whole time. You have to pass laterally, you can't pass forward, which goes to the effect that you have to have a lot of practice with passing the ball, you have to work together or else it won't work," said Andersen.

Durantini, who plays football at Acalanes, decided to play rugby "to get in shape" and to "try a new sport." Shaw, who is also trying rugby for the first time this year decided to play after hearing his older brother's friend talk about the sport. It was obvious that both newcomers were quick learners. At their first game, Durantini scored twice and Shaw scored once.

Durantini, Shaw, Schuknecht and Hakkak played in the first game of the season at Stanford on Dec. 6, against the Bears, a Southern California team. At the end of the first quarter there had been "tackles and a couple turnovers," said Shaw, but no score. Beginning of the second quarter the Bears went on a run, and scored three consecutive times, leaving the Rodents down three to zero.

After the Bear's third score, the Rodents began to turn the game around. Durantini grabbed the ball,"and ran up the middle with it, he had a straightaway, he ran the ball in, and scored," said Shaw. With the ball back in the Bears possession, Zeke picked off a pass and ran it back, closing the score gap at 3 - 2. Schuknecht caused a fumble, leaving the ball in the Rodents' possession. The ball was passed down the line to Shaw, who ran it in, tying the score at 3-3. The winning score for the Rodents was by Brad Foster, defeating the Bears 4-3.

The win at Stanford echoed last year's successful season, where the Rodents won 80% of their games. The Rodents started playing in 1984, and two years ago went to the National Championships in Washington DC. Last year they ranked eighth in the state, and won the Sonoma Tournament.

Returning player and team captain Drew Elliot thinks that "the team will do much better tha last year" largely due to new coaches. "We have some nationally acclaimed coaches this year: Ned Anderson, who coached at Cal, and Doug Cole, who played at Cal...they both have years and years of experience," he said.

JV SPORTS (cont'd)

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The key for the girls' successful season was being supportive of each other. The team's willingness to work together throughout the season helped them improve both mentally and physically at the game.

Since the JV girls only had three games, Corliss sometimes had the girls play against the varsity players on the opposing teams. "Away matches (were the highlight of the season) because we all cheered for everyone and we were really a team," said sophomore Megan Allen.

The team started out with a 3-0 season, defeating Alhambra High, Clayton Valley High, and rival Campolindo.

"The matches are really challenging, but in the end we all succeeded," said sophomore Laura Stinson.

All of the junior varsity have proven themselves worthy to fill their varsity predecessors shoes next year.

GIRLS SOCCER

Girls Soccer Gets Down and Dirty

Dan Chamberlain
Staff Writer

The white and blue of the Lady Dons soccer team was hardly visible due to the mud covering the players. The muddy Dons walked off a field soaked by days of rain with a 5-0 victory over Campolindo in the second game of the season.

Despite having to battle uphill, the Dons dominated the beginning of the game. During the first half, the Dons had several scoring opportunities, but failed to convert on any of them. Although the ball spent most of the first half on the Cougars' side of the field, Campo managed to put together a few counter attacks that resulted in a handful of shots on goal, which were all handled nicely by junior goalkeeper Julie Cellini.

Coach Hal McArthur's half-time pep talk seemed to work as the Dons came out in the second half with their guns blazing, and lit up the Cougars defense for five goals. Freshman striker Jenny Barbera opened up the scoring as the Dons bombarded the Campo net with a total of twenty-four shots. The rampage continued as junior striker Beth Barbera put two shots past the Cougars' keeper. Sam Skarl joined in by rocketing a shot past the keeper's near post. Rounding out the scoring for the Dons was sophomore midfielder Elise Dieden.

During this rampage, Cellini and sophomore sweeper Robin Flier solidified the defense. Cellini shutout the Cougars, making six saves in the process.

In their first game of the season, the Dons had a tough battle with Miramonte, again on a field that was soaked with rain. The Dons eventually succumbed to the Mats, by a score of 2-0, though they controlled the ball for the first fifteen minutes. The Mats scored their first goal on a counter attack that ended with a shot that took a bad bounce over Cellini.

The game played evenly for the remainder of the first half. Beth Barbera had several scoring opportunities, but good defense, and some lucky breaks for Miramonte, kept the Dons out of the net.

With only ten minutes left in the game, Miramonte scored again, after the Mats' offense had been knocking on the door for some time. This last goal put the game out of reach for the tiring Dons.

This year's squad is a very young team, with only two seniors, six freshmen and six sophomores. The inexperience of the team showed in the Miramonte game, "I think what we are lacking, a little, is the confidence to have possession on the ball," said McArthur.

The confidence of the Dons was high against Campolindo, as the two games looked like night and day. "In the Miramonte game, we just played nervous...today I think they decided that they can play with people...one of the things that we talked about in practice yesterday was just not being nervous, and playing the way they know how to play," said McArthur. Beth Barbera, the leading scorer for the Dons agreed. "Today we had the confidence and people wanted to win, at Miramonte people didn't know what to expect."

Blueprint Photo/Rachel Messer

Freshman outside halfback Amanda Carroll prepares to kick the ball in the recent Varsity game against the Campolindo Cougars.

WRESTLING (cont'd)

cont'd from page 21

up, and it payed off," said Seibert.

Senior John Wakeman provided Acalanes with another second place finish in the 189 pound division. Other notable finishes include junior Sam Glickman's fourth place finish in the 119 pound division and junior co-captain Paul Crawford's fifth place finish in the 140 pound division.

This tournament served as a good tune up for the wrestlers. Although the Dons are a bit undermanned, the wrestlers they do have are very good. For now, it's back to the mats to prepare for the upcoming College Park Tournament toward the end of the month.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Miracle Dons Off to a Quick Start

Young Varsity team back againwith pre-season blowouts

By Chris Vetek
Staff Writer

Instinctively predicting the inbound pass's destination, sophomore guard Corrie Mizusawa snuck her left hand in front of the intended receiver, stealing the ball before the Thurgood Marshall guard knew what was happening. Mizusawa circled and cut her way down the court, connecting with the "coast to coast" lay-up unchallenged.

Such was the fate of Thurgood Marshall against the Acalanes girls basketball team, whho won handily 87-40 at home on Tuesday, December 2, showing that the "dream" of last year's championship team may still be alive.

The team comes off of an 11-4 league showing (27-7 overall) under its belt, and from the start it was apparent that Thurgood Marshall never had a chance against the Dons.

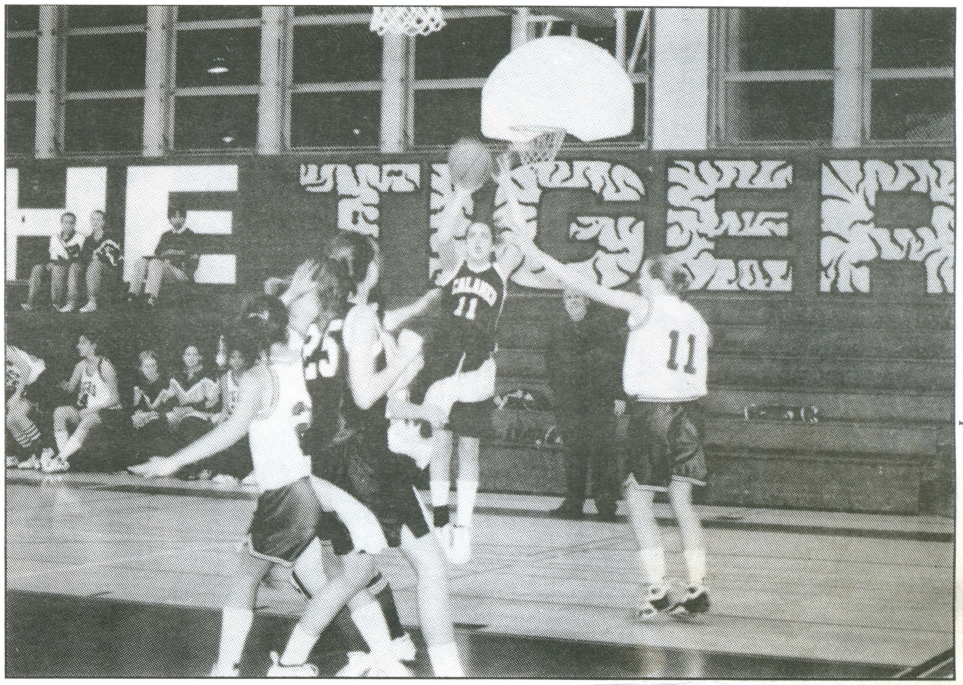
Like a fine-tuned engine, with each part working to produce the desired effect, the team worked as one, an invincible force against the inexperienced Thurgood Marshall team from San Francisco.

"We wore them out. We played great defense," said Mizusawa, who was second overall in scoring with 17 points (sophomore Lisa Ovadia led the Dons with 19), and led the team in assists with 4.

Thurgood Marshall came into the game with no previous playing time as a team, as most of its players just came off of volleyball, said its coach, Anita Butler.

"I kind of expected it to go the way it did," she said.

Caught napping early, Thurgood Marshall quickly lost pace with the Dons' quick-tempo passing and fast-break style, one they typified last season with first year coach Casey Rush. By halftime Acalanes had a tight hold on the game, with the Dons up 44-19.



Blueprint Photo/Ia Hernandez

Sophomore Lauren Murray puts up a shot in front of a defender in a recent Girls' Varsity basketball game.

"I wasn't too happy with our defense in the first half despite holding them to only 19 (points). We kicked into second gear in the second half though," said Rush.

A week earlier Rush had stated that his team was strong with quick passing and speed, but weak with height, which was not a factor against the smaller Thurgood Marshall team. Senior Danielle Silvani led her young team on the defensive end on the rare occasions when Thurgood Marshall actually got the ball past Acalanes' full-court press, which was used for much of the second half. Silvani finished with 7 points.

"This win is a good start for us. Last year is last year, and we need to take it one step at a time," she said.

Silvani leads a trio of returning seniors, including Meredith Galer and Julie Craigholm.

Leading Thurgood Marshall on offense was senior Sevift Isokee, who scored 12 points. Senior Gonika Beasley said that the game was a wake-up call for her team.

"We all just came off volleyball. The only thing we learned tonight is that our team needs a lot of work. It was a learning experience for us," she said.

In their second pre-season matchup, the Dons proved that their first rout wasn't a fluke by winning at Analy 71-44.

Sophomores Hilary Anderson and Mizusawa led all Dons in scoring with 14 points each, while Dirkse Dunham and Aubree Miller led Analy with 15 and 11 points, respectively.

From the way things are going, it looks like the women's varsity basketball team has a chance to egual last year's unbelievable season. However, the true test will come in league where basketball powerhouse and defending state champion Campolindo awaits the young Dons squad.

Their victory over Analy gives the Dons a step up in North Coast seedings when the post season rolls around.

Athletes of the Issue

Blueprint Photo/Rachel Messer

Eric Ramp

His presence was already being felt last year as he threw down amazing dunks to win the Acalanes Slam Dunk contest as a sophomore.

Now as a junior, Eric Ramp is already dominating his opponents. In the recent Huskie Classic basketball tournament, Ramp scored 20 points in the championship despite the Dons losing a heartbreaker. Ramp hit three 3's and was named to the All-Tournament team.

For this he is *Blueprint*'s Male Athlete of the Issue. Ramp has also been entertaining fans with amazing dunks like his beautiful one-handed tomahawk against Sierra.

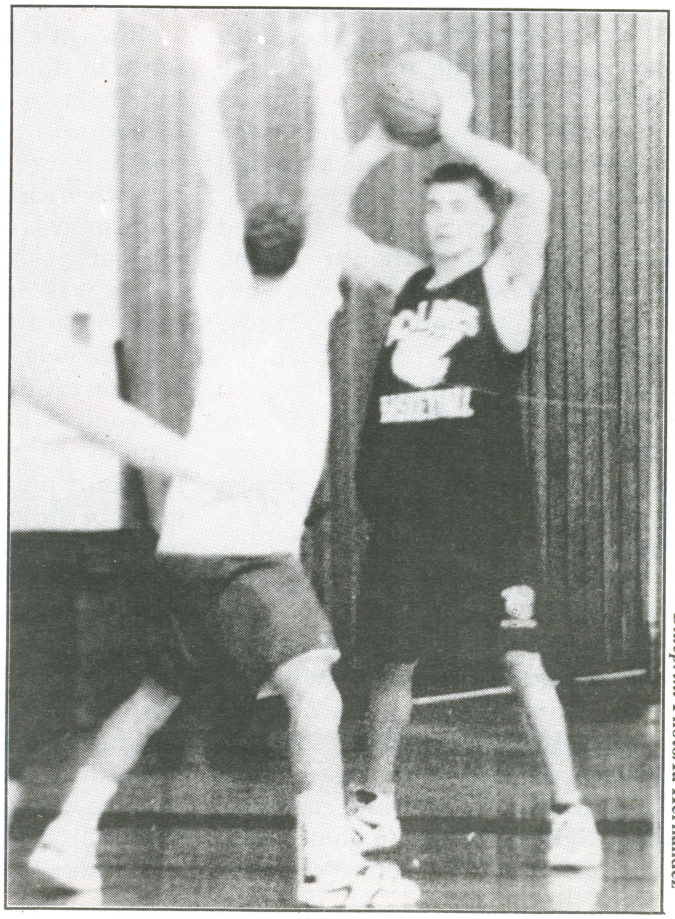
Beth Barbera

In high school athletics, leadership is often sought after from the seniors. On the Acalanes girls' soccer team, junior Beth Barbera has proven you don't have to be the oldest to help lead a team.

For this she is *Blueprint*'s Female Athlete of the Issue. On a team where seniors are scarce, Barbera has stepped up and has provided leadership that this young team needs.

"Because there are only two seniors on the team, somebody had to step up to take over some of the leadership responsiblities and Beth's done it," said senior Jessica Rhodes.

Barbera scored two goals in the Dons' 5-0 win over Campolindo and had a handful of assists. Along with soccer, Barbera will use her athletic talents on the track this spring with the 800 meter dash.



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